



## CONFERENCE PROMOTING SAFETY, INTEGRITY, EQUALITY AND INCLUSION IN SPORT



4-5 November 2024, Athens, Greece, The Hellenic Parliament

### An overview of the Council of Europe and Parliamentary Assembly standards related to the Conference on Promoting Safety, Integrity, Equality and Inclusion in Sport

#### Introduction

The Council of Europe and its Parliamentary Assembly <sup>1</sup>have established comprehensive standards to promote safety, integrity, equality, and inclusion in sport, which serve as the foundation for discussions at the Conference on Promoting Safety, Integrity, Equality, and Inclusion in Sport. These standards are enshrined in various conventions, recommendations, and resolutions that address critical issues such as combating doping, preventing match-fixing and illegal betting, ensuring safe and inclusive environments for all participants, and promoting gender equality and non-discrimination in sport. Together, these frameworks reflect the Council's commitment to fostering an ethical, safe, and inclusive sporting environment across its member states, ensuring that sport remains a positive force for personal and social development.

Overarching guidance on the Council of Europe's work in the field of sport can be found in [“The Council of Europe and Sport Strategic Priorities for 2022-2025”](#).

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<sup>1</sup> For more information on PACE work see also: <https://rm.coe.int/athens-sports-conference-background-information/1680b1fa22>

## Key Standards and Recommendations related to safe sports- preventing violence and abuse (Session I)

### 1. [The European Sport Charter \(Recommendation \(2021\)5\)](#)

- **Purpose:** it lays down the basic principles for national sports policies, empowering governments to provide everyone with opportunities to practise sport under well-defined conditions. It provides inspiration for policy makers and guidelines for member states as to how they can make their existing sport legislation or other policies more efficient and develop a comprehensive framework for sport.
- **Key provisions:** it promotes values-based sport, sport for all, multi-stakeholder sport and human rights in and through sport. It calls upon countries and stakeholders to ensure that the human rights of athletes and everyone involved in sport are respected, protected and promoted. The ESC also provides a holistic definition for personal, competitive and organisational integrity of sport.

### 2. Recommendation [CM/Rec\(2015\)2](#) on Gender Mainstreaming in Sport

**Purpose:** Focuses on promoting gender equality and combating gender-based violence and abuse in sport.

- **Key Provisions:**
  - **Legislation and Policies:** member States are encouraged to promote gender equality in all aspects of sports. This includes ensuring equal opportunities for participation, decision-making, access to facilities, and leadership roles for both men and women.
  - **Safe Sport:** encourages member States are encouraged to adopt, implement and monitor policies and measures, in co-operation with sports organisations, to prevent and combat gender-based violence against women and girls in sport;
  - **Training and Education:** Advocates for the training of coaches, administrators, and athletes on identifying, preventing, and addressing sexist violence and abuse.

### 3. Saint-Denis Convention on an Integrated Safety, Security and Service Approach at Football Matches and Other Sports Events (CETS No. 218)

**Purpose:** 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.

#### **Key Provisions:**

- 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.

#### 4. **Macolin Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions** ([CETS No. 215](#))

- **Purpose:** Primarily focuses on integrity in sport but also indirectly supports safe sport by promoting fair competition and eliminating manipulation that can lead to exploitation and abuse.
- **Key Provisions:**
  - Preventing Corruption and Abuse: Establishes standards to prevent corruption and abuse related to the manipulation of sports competitions.
  - Protection for Whistleblowers: Provides safeguards and protection for those who report instances of manipulation or abuse.

#### 5. [Start to Talk](#)

- **Purpose:** A Council of Europe initiative aimed at ending violence, abuse and sexual abuse of children in sport.
- **Key Provisions :**
  - Awareness and Education: Promotes awareness and educational programs for sports organisations, families, and children on the risks of abuse and violence.
  - Support for Victims: Encourages member states to create support mechanisms for child victims and adopt policies to ensure a safe and supportive environment for children in sport.
  - Commitment to Safe Sport: Encourages sports organisations to commit to "Start to Talk" principles by establishing and enforcing child protection policies and reporting mechanisms.

#### 6. **Declaration by the Committee of Ministers on** [Sport Integrity](#)

- **Purpose:** To protect the integrity of sport, including measures to prevent manipulation, exploitation, and abuse of athletes.
- **Key Provisions :**
  - Ethical Standards and Codes of Conduct: Promotes the adoption of ethical standards and codes of conduct to protect athletes and participants from coercion, manipulation, and abuse.
  - Transparency and Reporting: Recommends transparency in reporting mechanisms and protective measures for those disclosing unethical practices.

## Relevant Conventions:

- The Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, “the [Istanbul Convention](#)”
- The Council of Europe Convention on Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse - “the [Lanzarote Convention](#)”
- Council of Europe Convention on [Action against Trafficking in Human Beings](#)

## Key Standards and Recommendations related to clean sport: tackling doping, match fixing and illegal betting (Session II)

### 1. Anti-Doping Convention ([ETS No. 135](#))

- **Purpose:** Establishes a common framework for preventing and combating doping in sport among member states.
- **Key Standards :**
  - Coordination and Cooperation: Encourages cooperation between governments and sports organizations to implement anti-doping measures effectively.
  - Harmonization of Legislation: Promotes the adoption of national policies and legislation that are consistent with international anti-doping standards, such as the World Anti-Doping Code.
  - Testing and Enforcement: Establishes standards for conducting doping tests, implementing sanctions, and ensuring that anti-doping regulations are enforced uniformly.
  - Education and Awareness: Supports educational initiatives to inform athletes, coaches, and the public about the risks and consequences of doping.
- **Additional Protocol to the Anti-Doping Convention ([ETS No. 188](#)):**
  - Enhances the effectiveness of the Anti-Doping Convention by improving testing standards and establishing stronger cooperation between states for sharing information on anti-doping rule violations.

### 2. Macolin Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions ([CETS No. 215](#))

- **Purpose:** Establishes a legal framework to prevent, detect, and sanction the manipulation of sports competitions (commonly known as the “Macolin Convention”).
- **Key Standards :**
  - Definition and Scope: Defines manipulation as any act or omission aimed at altering the outcome of a sports competition to gain an undue advantage.
  - Criminalization of Match-Fixing: Encourages member states to criminalize the manipulation of sports competitions and ensure that perpetrators are prosecuted.

- Cooperation and Exchange of Information: Establishes mechanisms for international cooperation and the exchange of information between sports organizations, betting regulators, and law enforcement agencies.
- Measures Against Illegal Betting: Encourages states to adopt regulations to prevent illegal betting operations, detect suspicious betting patterns, and implement mechanisms to disrupt illegal activities.
- Whistleblower Protection: Provides protections for whistleblowers who report incidents of match-fixing and manipulation.

### 3. European Sports Charter ([Revised 2021](#))

- **Purpose:** Sets out principles and guidelines for promoting the values of sport and ensuring its integrity.
- **Key Standards :**
  - Integrity of Sport: Highlights the importance of safeguarding the integrity of sport through measures against doping, match-fixing, and illegal betting.
  - Anti-Doping and Match-Fixing Policies: Calls for comprehensive policies and strategies to combat all forms of cheating, including doping, manipulation of results, and financial misconduct.
  - Ethics and Fair Play: Promotes ethics, fair play, and transparency as core values for the management and governance of sports organizations.

### 4. Declaration by the Committee of Ministers on Sport Integrity

- **Purpose:** To protect the integrity of sport.
- **Key Provisions :**
  - Support for EPAS' network of magistrates and prosecutors responsible for sport (MARS).

### 5. [Resolution 2254 \(2019\)](#)<sup>2</sup> “Time to act: Europe’s political response to fighting the manipulation of sports competitions” by the Parliamentary Assembly

- **Purpose:** Calls for stronger political commitment and action from member states to combat the manipulation of sports competitions.
- **Key Standards :**
  - Ratification of the Macolin Convention: Urges all member states to ratify and implement the Macolin Convention as a priority.
  - Strengthening Legal Frameworks: Encourages member states to review and strengthen their legal frameworks to ensure effective prosecution of sports manipulation.
  - Establishment of National Platforms: Supports the establishment of national platforms to facilitate coordination between stakeholders and promote the Macolin Convention’s implementation.

<sup>2</sup> See also: <https://rm.coe.int/athens-sports-conference-background-information/1680b1fa22>

## 6. [Resolution 2199 \(2018\)](#) “Towards a framework for modern sports governance” by the Parliamentary Assembly

- **Purpose:** Focuses on good governance in sport, highlighting integrity and transparency as key components for preventing corruption, match-fixing, and doping.
- **Key Standards :**
  - Good Governance Principles: Promotes principles such as transparency, accountability, and ethical management within sports organizations.
  - Combating Doping and Match-Fixing: Calls for coherent policies and strategies to combat doping and match-fixing as part of a broader good governance framework.
  - Involvement of Stakeholders: Advocates for the involvement of various stakeholders, including governments, sports organizations, and athletes, in developing and implementing governance standards.

## Key Standards and Recommendations on Equality and Inclusion in Sport (Session III)

### 1. European Sports Charter ([Revised 2021](#))

- **Purpose:** Provides a framework for sports policy development at the European level and serves as a reference for member states in promoting sports as a fundamental right.
- **Key Standards :**
  - **Equal Access and Opportunities:** Advocates for everyone’s right to participate in sport, regardless of age, gender, race, disability, sexual orientation, or social status.
  - **Non-Discrimination and Inclusivity:** Emphasizes non-discrimination as a core principle and sets standards for inclusive participation at all levels, from grassroots to elite sports.
  - **Gender Equality:** Encourages equal representation of women and men in all areas, including leadership positions, coaching, and as athletes.
  - **Protection from Harassment and Abuse:** Establishes the need for policies to protect athletes and participants from all forms of harassment, abuse, and violence.

### 2. Recommendation [CM/Rec\(2015\)2](#) on Gender Mainstreaming in Sport

- **Purpose:** Promotes the integration of gender equality perspectives into all aspects of sports policy and practice.
- **Key Standards :**
  - **Gender Equality Policies:** Encourages the development of gender equality strategies within sports organizations and public sports policies.
  - **Elimination of Gender Stereotypes:** Calls for actions to eliminate gender stereotypes and promote positive representations of women and men in sport.



- **Equal Participation:** Supports the creation of conditions that allow for the equal participation of women and men in sports activities, events, and leadership.

### 3. Recommendation [CM/Rec\(2021\)5](#) on the Protection of Child and Young Athletes from Dangers Associated with Migration

- **Purpose:** Provides standards for the protection of child athletes, especially those involved in cross-border movements or migrations.
- **Key Standards :**
  - **Protection and Rights:** Safeguards the rights and well-being of young athletes, ensuring they are not exploited or subjected to undue risks.
  - **Inclusivity in Sports:** Promotes inclusive environments that accommodate children from diverse backgrounds, including refugees and migrants.

### 4. Saint-Denis Convention on an Integrated Safety, Security and Service Approach at Football Matches and Other Sports Events (CETS No. 218)

- **Purpose:** 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.
- **Key Provisions :**
  - 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 during 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.

### 5. Recommendation [CM/Rec\(2019\)1](#) of the Committee of Ministers to member States on preventing and combating sexism

- **Purpose:** Addresses the issue of sexism and sets out measures to combat it including in the sports domain.
- **Key Standards:**
  - **Anti-Sexism Policies:** Urges member states and sports organisations to adopt and implement anti-sexism policies and provide educational programs.
  - **Promoting Role Models:** Encourages the promotion of female role models in sport to inspire the younger generation and challenge traditional gender norms.
  - **Combating Gender-Based Violence:** Establishes that sports organizations should have specific mechanisms to report and address instances of gender-based violence.

## 6. Macolin Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions ([ETS No. 215](#))

- Although primarily focused on integrity, this convention also indirectly supports equality and inclusion by promoting fair competition and preventing corruption, ensuring that all athletes have an equal chance to compete.

### Implementation and Monitoring Mechanisms

The Council of Europe has established several mechanisms and initiatives to support the implementation and monitoring of its conventions and recommendations:

- **The Committee on Safety and Security at Sports Events (T-S4)**, also known as the “Saint-Denis Committee”, monitors the implementation of the Saint-Denis Convention, including through visits to the States Parties. It sets standards, notably through recommendations, supports the provision of technical assistance, building upon the collection and exchange of experience and good practices, and promotes international cooperation with relevant stakeholders. Monitoring activities comprise annual monitoring questionnaires and reports, as well as monitoring visits according to a multi-annual programme of visits to States Parties. The first monitoring visit was held in Germany, in November 2023, in the context of the preparations for UEFA EURO 2024.
- **The Monitoring Group of the Anti-Doping Convention (T-DO)** facilitates the implementation of the Convention and its Additional Protocol by developing recommendations. It also evaluates implementation by compiling annual reports and organising evaluation visits, followed by the publication of compliance reports.
- **The Follow-up Committee on Manipulation of Sports Competitions (T-MC)**, which monitors the implementation of the Convention; makes recommendations to the Parties on measures to be taken in order to enhance the operational co-operation between the relevant public authorities, sports organisations and betting operators; prepares opinions to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe; and informs relevant international organisations and the public about the activities undertaken within the framework of the Convention.
- The evaluation of national sport systems carried out by **Council of Europe in States Parties to EPAS**, in the light of the European Sports Charter.



## Cooperation projects

A few important European Union-Council of Europe joint projects are also relevant:

- [Combating hate speech in sport - #SportIsRespect](#) (1 January 2022 - 30 June 2024), which aims to combat hate speech in sport by providing technical assistance to public authorities in member states and other sport stakeholders (such as practitioners, referees, coaches, fans, etc.) to develop comprehensive strategies within a human-rights framework;
- [All In Plus: promoting greater gender equality in sport](#) (1 March 2023-28 February 2025), the aim of which is to highlight the benefits of greater gender equality in sport through data collection, the creation of an online library of best practice examples and media sensitisation. The main goal of the project is to ensure that the relative invisibility of women in sport and the ongoing lack of awareness about gender imbalance in sport and related issues are brought clearly to the forefront.;
- [Balance S4, Strengthening the Safety and Service pillars of the Saint-Denis Convention](#) (January 2024 – September 2025), which aims to support member States of the Council of Europe in reinforcing the implementation of the safety and service pillars of the Saint-Denis Convention at national level, in order to achieve the right balance with the security pillar.

For additional information and a more complete list, please consult the webpage: [Sports, Adopted Texts](#)