

The Council of Europe's mission to uphold democracy, human rights and the rule of law, in tandem with its decades-long work in promoting positive values of sport, place it at the forefront of the fight to preserve integrity in sport.

As a major component of society, sport is at the heart of communities and brings people together around values such as respect, equality and fairness, and is thus an excellent vector and tool for promoting human rights and democratic principles and values.

### THE EUROPEAN SPORTS CHARTER AND INTEGRITY

The [European Sports Charter](#) (ESC) calls upon states to design their sports policies according to its guidelines and stakeholders to take into consideration the principles enshrined therein.

Article 8.1: **“Sport integrity” encompasses the components of personal, competitive and organisational integrity. Threats to sports integrity include criminal offences such as corruption, fraud and coercion, but also violations of statutory and disciplinary regulations and unethical behaviour.”**

But sport faces complex and ever-evolving threats (such as doping, violence at sports events, manipulation of competitions, corruption and human rights violations) which can undermine the confidence of society in it and increasingly expose sport to human rights infringements and to breaches of the rule of law.

Upholding the integrity of sport requires a coordinated and stronger emphasis on education and implementation of the applicable standards by the competent public authorities.

Article 8.2: **“Sport integrity policies should rely on multi-stakeholder initiatives; encourage and co-operate with whistle-blowers and free media; pay attention to compliance with human rights; invest in education, prevention and awareness raising; be monitored, including through the use of remedies; and use gender and youth mainstreaming.”**

### SPORT INTEGRITY: OUR ACTION

For decades, the Council of Europe and EPAS have been fighting the various threats to the integrity of sport, namely all forms of violence and corruption, the manipulation of sports competitions and doping.

#### Declaration on Sport Integrity

In September 2023, the Committee of Ministers adopted a [Declaration on Sport Integrity](#) as a result of growing concerns from the constantly evolving threats to sport integrity. It calls upon member states and sports organisations to: *“promote transparency, accountability, democracy and ethical behaviour in sport, including the establishment of robust governance systems, conflict-of-interest policies, whistle-blower protection mechanisms, effective investigation and prosecution of corruption, manipulation of competitions, violence and other infringements of human rights and the rule of law in the sport context.”*

#### The MARS Network

EPAS set up a Network of Magistrates / Prosecutors Responsible for Sports ([MARS Network](#)) that aims to strengthen international co-operation and promote the collection, management and exchange of information, intelligence and good practices in the protection of the integrity of sport.

### Guidelines on Integrity in Sport

EPAS co-ordinated the preparation of the [Guidelines on Integrity in Sport](#) within the framework of the Kazan Action Plan.

#### IPACS

The Council of Europe (represented by EPAS and GRECO – the Group of States against Corruption) is one of the co-founders of the International Partnership Against Corruption in Sport (IPACS) and contributes to its work in the fight against corruption in sport and the promotion of good governance.

### FURTHER TOOLS AND REFERENCES



Council of Europe Sport Conventions



[www.coe.int/epas](http://www.coe.int/epas) • @CoE\_Sports • #CoE4Sport

Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport  
  
 Accord partiel élargi sur le sport

COUNCIL OF EUROPE  
  
 CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE