

A STRATEGIC PRIORITY

Human rights in and through sport has been central to the Council of Europe's mission for decades. The Organisation strives to be a driving force to ensure that human rights are embedded in sport and through it in our societies. To this end, one of the Council of Europe's strategic priorities in the field of sport is to:

*"Firmly place the **protection of human rights and respect for the rule of law** in sports, in particular in the fight against corruption, on the agenda of both governments and sports organisations, including fostering changes in legislation, policies and practices in Europe and beyond."*

(The Council of Europe's Strategic Priorities 2022-25)

THE EUROPEAN SPORTS CHARTER AND HUMAN RIGHTS

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. The ESC calls for the human rights of those involved in or exposed to sport-related activities to be protected.

Specifically, Article 6.1 of the ESC calls for all stakeholders to **"respect and protect internationally recognised human rights and fundamental freedoms"** and **"observe the general framework established for their implementation in business and other activities."**

In turn, Article 6.2 reiterates:

"The human rights due diligence approach in sport requires respect for the human rights of those involved in or exposed to sport-related activities."

HUMAN RIGHTS IN AND THROUGH SPORT: OUR ACTION

As a platform for multi-sectoral convergence and dialogue, EPAS works in co-operation with the sports movement and relevant intergovernmental and monitoring bodies to hold **regular exchanges** and **share expertise** in areas where human rights issues have been identified.

Through **institutional partnerships, thematic events, systematic reviews, reporting** of progress in the field and **commissioned studies**, EPAS is making the protection of human rights a priority and promoting the integration of issues concerning human rights in sport into existing human rights monitoring mechanisms.

EPAS' work on this topic includes:

- ▶ Placing human rights in and through sport as the cornerstone of the **Conferences of Ministers responsible for Sport**.

Outcomes of these Conferences:

- Adoption of a [Resolution on human rights in sport](#) (2021)
- Adoption of the [International Declaration on Human Rights and Sport](#) (Tbilisi Declaration) (2018)
- ▶ Establishing the Annual **Forum on Sport and Human Rights** allowing a platform for dialogue between the **European Court of Human Rights**, other human rights monitoring bodies and the sport world. The Forum has covered topics including freedom of expression, data protection and gender equality.
- ▶ Publishing **handbooks**:
 - For the sports movement: ["Human rights protection in Europe in the context of sports organisations' disciplinary and arbitrary procedures"](#) (2018)
 - For judicial authorities: ["Disciplinary and arbitration procedures of the sport movement"](#) (2017)
- ▶ Addressing the protection and promotion of the human rights of transgender and intersex athletes in sports competitions (through studies, an educational toolkit and as the focus subject of webinars and the [EPAS Diversity Conference](#) in 2021).



Protecting athletes and everyone involved in sport



Combating the different forms of **arbitrariness** and **abuse**



Adopting a **zero-tolerance policy** for violence and all forms of discrimination



Promoting **gender equality**



Upholding human rights when organising **major sports events**

HELP E-LEARNING COURSE ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN SPORT

The Council of Europe's Programme on **Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals (HELP)** aims to enhance the capacity of judges, lawyers and prosecutors to apply the European human rights standards in their daily work. This is done through the HELP online courses, which cover a range of human rights topics.

The objective of the [HELP course on Human Rights in Sport](#) is to increase the awareness of human rights and related legal issues in the field of sport among legal professionals and other specialists involved in sport.



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