

Report of the Ethics Authority (73rd FIL Congress 2025 in Tampere, Finland)

In the reporting period following my report dated April 19, 2024, on the 72nd FIL Congress, no reports of violations of the FIL Ethics Code were brought to my attention to date.

In my previous report, I had already raised the question of why only one case was reported to me at that time. Looking at the number of cases reported in other sports associations, the number seems low, even taking into account that the FIL is a relatively small sports association. There may be many reasons for this. It is entirely possible and, of course, to be hoped that there was no reason to report any violations. However, it may also be due to the fact that, until now, the conditions for reporting violations in an environment that the persons concerned consider to be secure have not been in place. This has been improved this year with the introduction of a reporting portal. Reports of violations in the area of Safe Sport can now be submitted securely via an external service provider on the FIL website.

This means that the technical side has been implemented. However, the most important elements for maintaining integrity are competence in dealing with ethical and, above all, safe sport issues, the independence of the persons involved, and the confidence of those affected that reports of violations will be handled responsibly. Implementing these elements from the FIL through the NFs to the clubs is and remains the task for the future.

I expect the Congress to pass a resolution to incorporate the principles developed in recent years by our Safe Sport Officer Stephen Harris into the Code of Ethics as Safe Sport provisions. And I am confident that the Presidium will adopt the Safe Sport Policy drafted at the same time.

However, this alone will not be enough. At the NF level, Safe Sport Policies must be adopted and Safe Sport provisions must be introduced and implemented, where this has not already been done.

In many cases, this will only be possible through the initiative and with the support of the National Olympic Committees or Organizations, which are called upon to take action here. The German Olympic Sports Confederation, for instance, has made exemplary headway in this area last year. The next step is to implement these measures in the national federations as soon as possible, before creating structures down to the club level to ensure that these principles are not merely declared and rules are adopted, but that these rules are implemented and lived to protect athletes, because that is what we owe to our athletes. The public and, above all, the parents of young athletes are keeping a close eye on this more than ever, not least because of incidents in other sports.

Frankfurt am Main, April 18, 2025

Karl-Friedrich Schauhoff,
Ethics Authority