

## **Report of the Acting Ethics Authority (72nd FIL Congress 2024 in Lake Placid, New York, USA)**

Like my predecessors, I cannot report on the content of cases, i.e. proceedings based on notifications of violations of the FIL Ethics Code, because as a rule they must not be reported for reasons of personal privacy and the requirement of confidentiality of information and incidents. However, I am allowed to report on the type, number and outcome of cases, and this should be reported.

Statistically speaking, I have only received one notification since taking on my acting role in November 2023. Categorically, the case belongs to the group of violations of the prohibitions of discrimination and violation of personal rights. However, it was a minor violation; the proceedings were therefore discontinued in accordance with the provisions of the FIL Ethics Code after the submission of a voluntary undertaking in the form of a cease-and-desist declaration.

Nevertheless, the question arises as to why only one case was reported to me. Looking at the number of cases reported with other sports federations, the number seems low, even if you consider that the FIL is a relatively small sports federation. The reasons for this can be manifold: violations are instead reported to the NFs at national level, the opportunity to report is not taken up for various reasons, for example due to ignorance of the Ethics Code, or because the existence of the Ethics Authority and its function are not sufficiently known, or because there are fears of reporting violations at all, or there were actually no other violations in the period in question.

I see the external Ethics Authority, who is not a member of the executive, as being not only responsible for ensuring that reported ethics violations are sanctioned, but also for ensuring that violations are reported at all, or better still, preventively, that an environment and a mindset are created in which violations do not occur in the first place. This applies to all areas covered by the Ethics Code, i.e. the protection of athletes from physical, psychological or sexual violence, compliance with fair play in sport, the ban on manipulation and the ban on doping, protection from injuries through technical safety, equal treatment, diversity and inclusion, sustainability and the integrity of all federation decisions and measures.

Against this background, the FIL's current intensive work on a comprehensive Sport Integrity Program is therefore very much to be welcomed, with the initial focus on a Safe Sport Program. In addition to the introduction of a Safe Sport Code and a reporting system for violations, the focus is on creating an environment that will act responsibly in line with the goals of Safe Sport and the integrity of the sport of luge and that will extend into the structures of the FIL members.

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