

## Report by the Ethics Officer (69th FIL Congress in 2021 – Salzburg)

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*“The FIL Ethics Code is an important step into the future.*

*However: The FIL Ethics Code must be lived out, it must be embedded in the awareness of everyone who participates in luge.” (FIL Magazine 1/2017)*

This year again, we do not have any specific “cases” to report; that is because public reporting of such cases is prohibited due to rules regarding personal privacy and confidentiality in handling information and incidents.

However, it has become obvious that the focus of this year's reporting needs to be on the following **concrete guidelines for action** in the **Ethics Code**:

**2.3** *The privacy, as well as the personal and sexual integrity, of all parties at a sporting competition must be maintained, including in the execution of doping tests and in the provision of changing room facilities and toilets.*

**2.4** *The personal dignity and honor, mutual respect, and appreciation of personal rights must be guaranteed.*

This topic of focus was already addressed in the Ethics Officer's report at the 66th FIL Congress in 2018 under the heading **"Integrity of athletes"**: "FIL needs to update its code in this area (sexualized violence) .... Trusted contacts who are available throughout the season could offer assistance if needed and build trust over the long term."

That was three years ago. Lamentably, there is still a serious lack of **concrete guidelines** with respect to this very important topic. Even the **SLIDE 2026** strategic plan does not address the topic until the end of the document, mentioning the need to guarantee the **"protection of athletes participating in FIL from bullying, abuse, harassment, and discrimination"** and to track it in a **framework strategic plan** – but there is no action plan for this.

Some good examples of effective strategies for preventing sexual violence exist. For instance, a few years ago the BSD – the German Bobsleigh, Luge, and Skeleton Federation – already worked out a strategy with concrete guidelines and enacted it. The strategy is part of the BSD's Ethics Code. Here is an excerpt from the BSD strategy for illustration purposes:

*"For optimal monitoring and the necessary education on the prevention of sexualized violence, defined structural elements are necessary in the federation. A key structural element is complaint management, which is the initial instance of information transfer for the affected persons or third parties who want to report an incident. Moreover, structures must be implemented for supporting participants after an incident." (Reproduction of this text authorized by BSD)*

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The time has come for FIL to also develop and enact a suitable strategy with the necessary structures and concrete guidelines for conduct.

Waltrop, June 15, 2021

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