

Report by the Ethics Authority (68th 2020 FIL Congress – Berchtesgaden)

“The FIL Ethics Code is an important step toward the future. The FIL Ethics Code must be implemented in the real world; it must be permanently fixed in the consciousness of all those involved in the sport of luge.” (FIL Magazine 1/2017)

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.

Nonetheless, I would like to point out certain aspects of the Ethics Code which are of special significance to our FIL family. This type of reporting with alternating themes will be continued in upcoming years.

The focus of this year’s reporting is on these ***specific instructions for conduct*** contained in the **Ethics Code**:

2.2 “The sanitary integrity of all parties at a sporting competition must be maintained.”, and

2.6 “The physical integrity and safety of the athletes and all other parties at a sporting event must be protected by means of the equipment, sleds, and sports facilities.”

On the one hand, luge is a sport subject to *risk*, in which certain risks are unavoidable. On the other hand, the obligation to protect physical and health integrity means that *atypical health risks* are unacceptable and must be avoided. If tracks are unsafe, luge must not be performed on them until the safety deficiencies are remedied.

In this context, consider the following excerpt from the **IRO Supplement 1**:

The track layout and components such as curves, walls, bridges, tunnels, transportation setups, etc. as well as all facilities originally belonging to the track *must be provided in such a way that the safety of the user is guaranteed to the greatest extent possible*.

If safety regulations are neglected on a track, subjecting the participants in FIL competitions to *atypical danger to their health*, the track may only be released by the technical delegate for further use if these deficiencies are remedied. If the steps taken are not sufficient in order to guarantee that the internationally recognized safety standards are followed during a competition, the jury, in agreement with the technical delegates is empowered to shorten the track.

The FIL code of ethics gives all parties in luge the opportunity to have conformance to specific instructions for proper conduct checked by authorized instances – ethics officials and the Ethics Commission – and, if necessary, have them enforce conformance to them.

"A notification of a violation of the FIL Ethics Code can be submitted by any FIL body, any national Federation, any athlete or any third party who feels that they have been affected by the alleged violation." FIL Ethics Code III, section 2, paragraph 1.

All persons, institutions, facilities and organs involved in luge must comply with the responsibilities arising from the FIL Ethics Code. The scope of parties addressed by the FIL Ethics Code was intentionally defined broadly under II.1. For parties who are not members of FIL, those in a position of responsibility must ensure – in legal contracts or by other means – that no "blind spots" are created that would prevent violations of the FIL Ethics Code from being sanctioned.

Waltrop, 4/20/2020

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