

Ethics Authority Report (66th FIL Congress 2018 – Bratislava)

“The FIL ethics code represents an important alignment with the future. The first step has been taken, yet additional steps remain. The FIL Ethics code must be embodied and borne in mind by everyone associated with the sport of luge” (FIL Magazine 1/2017)

This aim has yet to be fully realized.

After the Ethics Code was adopted at the 64th Congress in Lake Placid 2016 and the officeholders designated by the ethics code were elected at the 65th Congress in Constanta in 2017, some may have been guardedly afraid of developments that would be less than amenable to the sport of luge. These fears can be laid to rest.

A number of surveys and countless informal discussions have affirmed not just an interest in the FIL Ethics Code, but a conviction of the necessity of such a code. However, official procedures for the enforcement of the Ethics Code have yet to be introduced.

Nonetheless, I would like to address several issues surrounding the three primary goals of the FIL Ethics Code. The three primary goals are:

1. Integrity of the athletes
2. Integrity of sportsmanship
3. Integrity of Federation management

Integrity of the athletes:

Numerous scandals in the world of sports and the findings of scientific investigations have sensitized us to the topic of sexual violence. The FIL could undertake a few positive steps in this regard. Bearing in mind potential victims, we need to ensure that athletes avail themselves of the relevant resources of the Ethics Code. Trusted contacts who are available throughout the season could offer assistance if needed and establish a foundation of trust over the long-term.

Integrity of sportsmanship

The handling of doping scandals following the discovery of Russian efforts to hide positive doping results have not left Olympic sports unscathed. The reputation of clean athletes as well as that of the sport itself has suffered greatly, and its very foundations are threatened. The FIL Ethics Code is however not able to function as a stopgap to fill omissions in the Olympic (anti-doping) system of rules.

Integrity of Federation management

Good governance is a major concern of the FIL Ethics Code. The alignment of Federation management with the dictates of good governance should be systematically communicated internally and externally. All elements of modern media should be exploited to communicate the commitment of the FIL. Relevant Federation information should only remain confidential if it can be convincingly demonstrated that free access to the information of the FIL could be harmful.

Waltrop, April 18, 2018

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