



Resolutions of the 20th Panathlon International Congress “Ethics and Governance in Sport: Are we committed to change?”

The purpose of these resolutions is to further emphasize the focus and commitment of P.I. to improve ethics and governance in sport.

The *Panathlon Declaration* (Ghent, 2004) including the *Charter on the Rights of the Child in Sport* (Avignon, 1995) was Panathlon’s response to the worldwide growing concern about sport practice that has been put in a bad light by a number of high-profile scandals, a lack of integrity, transparency and democracy in governance, a related corruptive behaviour of sport managers, child abuse and excessive pressure from parents and coaches on children involved in sport.

Although P.I. acknowledged sport’s obvious moral deficit it has never underestimated the positive features of sport. It has always taken the position that in ethical issues one needs to do more than problem naming, more than having good intentions and well-intended ambitions to change. One needs both a positive narrative and a perspective to recover trust in sport’s, potential, and to implement policies and good practice that can make a difference from grassroots to elite levels of participation.

Resolutions and commitments

Based on the reflections on current sport in both the publication ‘*Ethics and Governance in Sport: the future of sport imagined*’ and the related discussions in its 20th congress

Panathlon International acknowledges that...

Ack. 1. All relevant stakeholders in sport are required by human and children’s rights statutes to take action to protect those rights. However private and public governing bodies should be obliged to provide a framework in which these rights should be realised. Safeguarding adults and children in sport must become a pillar of good governance.

Ack. 2. A lack of transparent and professional club management, unrestrained commercialization (e.g. monopolization of broadcast rights; questionable sponsoring) and the abuse of sport by (international) politics increase the motives for a wide and diverse group to engage in bribery, corruption, and fraud such as organized doping, match fixing and child trafficking.

Ack 3. Each person/organization/authority, including *the sport sector*, has the responsibility in their area of competence and influence to facilitate integration of people for whom sport is not easily accessible and to develop opportunities for sport to implement overall societal benefits and positive personal development. In particular sport must have regard to the vulnerability of refugees and migrants.

Ack.4. We acknowledge that sport is more than a means to other outcomes and objectives, but has its own inherent values and these must be preserved.



Therefore, Panathlon International commits itself...

Com.1. to promote the fundamental principles Olympism

Com. 2. (in the area of governance) To help promote and develop international and national strategies (sustainability models) towards better governance, transparency, integrity and corporate social responsibility. To partner with organizations with aligned objectives.

Com. 3. (in the area of public awareness) P.I. is committed to both develop and support public awareness and educational campaigns designed to promote good practice, ethics and governance.

Com.4. (in the area of education) P.I. is committed to helping develop national and international training and education programs for key stakeholders in the sport process (i.e. coaches, parents, administrators)

Com.5 (in the area of sport and cooperation) To contribute to the development of sport policy and programs that focus on bridging and bonding processes in order to enhance integration, inclusion, mental, physical and social wellbeing among individuals and groups.

Com. 6.(in the area of sport and physical activity) P.I. will promote these resolutions within the context of elite sport, organized sport as well as the voluntary-physical-activity experience.

Com.7. (in the area of P.I.) P.I. will facilitate the implementation of these resolutions through their network of Panathlon clubs and members, as well as through partnerships and collaboration with other like-minded organizations. P.I will also undertake to evaluate internal projects/conferences in an effort to be more effective, and model transparency.

Concluding Remarks

In order to achieve to these lofty goals and objectives, it is necessary to develop a strategic plan that outlines and clarifies, key roles, tasks required. The CSC suggests it plays a fundamental role within this strategic plan, with the commitment of ALL Panathlon clubs.

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Members of the Cultural and Scientific Committee: Yves Vanden Auweele (Belgium, president ad interim); Anne Tiivas (UK); Elaine Cook (Canada); Antonio Bramante (Brazil); Piermarco Zen-Ruffinen (Switzerland); Eugenio Guglielmino (Italy).

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