



## **“Integrity in Sport – Tools, Development, Structures.”**

### **Recommendations of the 18e Panathlon International Congress**

*(Siracusa 18th-19th May 2012)*

*The Panathlon Declaration* including the '*Charter on the Rights of the Child in Sport*' was P.I.'s first answer to the worldwide growing irritation and concern on current sport practice that has been put in a bad light by a number of high-profile scandals including match fixing and illegal betting in soccer, child abuse, child trafficking, child labor and corruption of sport managers.. P.I. estimated that the drawbacks of these aberrations are that they undermine the public's belief that positive values prevail in sport, and that they reinforce a generalized cynical attitude. P.I. estimated the limits of acceptability being breached and no longer wished to appear to approve, condone or disregard these aberrations by remaining silent.

The "*Panathlon Declaration on Ethics in Youth Sport*" constitutes in fact P.I.'s operational definition of ethics in sport. We especially mention point 2 of the declaration dealing with the banishing of all forms of discrimination in sport including the still difficult position of the disabled. The adoption by many organisations worldwide confirms that the contents of the declaration are widely shared.

However it requires more than a declaration and good intentions to debunking sports' moral deficit. It needs an *implementation strategy*. 'What should one do to make sure that the declaration will move beyond well-intended ambitions into actual policies that make a difference at the grassroots level'?

***Rec. 1. P.I. should further stimulate and disseminate local initiatives and good practices within the observatory (bottom up approach).***

Key persons, cities, local sport organizations can plan and implement these initiatives and prove with facts that one really can deal successfully with the integrity violations and dilemmas of modern sport. We will definitely reach a breakthrough and a point of no return when everyone thinks 'this is part of my responsibility'.

***Rec. 2. P.I. should aim at a systemic integration of a comprehensive integrity management in the logic and practice of the key players in the sport sector (top down approach).***

To overcome the implementation deficit of our Declaration the stimulation of the logic of a systemic "management approach" should be a more effective policy response because taking into account the complex organizational and managerial sport context.



**Rec. 3. Integrity management should include support tools but also controlling, sanctioning instruments and should consist of three pillars:**

1. *Practical instruments* such as codes of conducts, accreditation system for trainers and volunteers.
2. *Structures* to ensure that the work will be done;
3. *A road map* to introduce step by step the instruments.

Integrity management should integrate in a comprehensive way these three components.

**Rec. 4.** Unfortunately we have the impression that we cannot expect too much from the sports organisations themselves to initiate an integrity management because they have a history of slowing down even closing down serious attempts to change. ***We recommend appealing to national and international authorities such as the EU UNESCO, UNO to stimulate even to enforce with laws some necessary changes within the sports organisations.***

**Rec. 5. P.I. should work in the long term towards a more fundamental re-conceptualization of modern sport in the spirit of the Panathlon Declaration, especially the relationships between sports economy and culture.**

This option or the decision to merely consider a re-conceptualization of modern sport starts with the awareness of the fact that neither improvements on local and small scale, nor a single integrity management may lead to a real basic re-conceptualization of sport in the 21st century. However this angle should allow us to look at sport from a broad societal perspective: ‘Why do sports matter morally? What could and should be the role of sport in current society?’

Panathlon International could do pioneering work here in channeling this tendency.

**Rec. 6. P.I. should**

***a) further encourage bottom up initiatives in the local clubs***

***b) show more ambition on national and international level and increase its actions dramatically on that level***

May 19<sup>th</sup> Syracuse (Italy)