

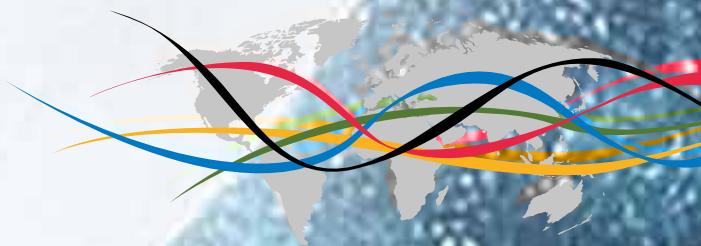
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# PANATHLON INTERNATIONAL



N° 1 January - April 2022





- 4• IOC and UNODC extend MoU to fight corruption and crime in sport  
*by Pawan Mathur*
- 5• THE NEW EXPANSION COMMISSION  
To broaden the frontiers of our mission in sport
- 6• SEMESTER OF THE ITALIAN PRESIDENCY OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE  
Integrity in Sport Agreement between 49 Nations
- 8• Young people in Panathlon - From utopia to reality?  
*by Renata Soliani*
- 11• THE VATICAN AND SPORT  
"The appeal from Pope Francis: "A kick to exclusion"
- 12• Sport as an antidote to the "hikikomori" syndrome  
*by Enrico Fora Co-editor of "ACSI Magazine"*
- 14• THE AFGHANISTAN CASE  
Panathlon International's appeal to restore freedom
- 15• THINKING ALOUD  
What is Fair Play? - Where can it be found?  
*by Giacomo Santini*
- 16• Panathlon International and its Clubs  
*by Maurizio Monego*
- 18• Physical exercise: it's great but it can also do harm  
*by Alberto Piraccini*
- 20• "DOMENICO CHIESA" FOUNDATION  
Sport, Olympic spirit and the mountains for creative visual artists
- 22• Cyclists, men or women, will receive the same prizes  
*by Paul Standaert*
- 24• DISTRICT ITALY  
Frisbee as a sport
- 26• INSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS  
Districts: A strategic pivot to create widespread synergies
- 28• DISTRICT BELGIUM  
Training under Erasmus + to become good managers
- 30• DISTRICT ITALY / CLUB CREMONA  
Sport is taboo in Afghanistan, especially for women  
  
DISTRICT SWITZERLAND  
Panathlon International working group established in Lausanne
- 32• DISTRICT ITALY/ COMMUNICATION  
Thousands of hits on "Panathlon Planet"  
*by Massimo Rosa*  
  
DISTRICT ITALY / CLUB COMO  
Getting involved in big events is better than promoting them
- 33• DISTRICT ITALY  
Presented in Rome a new Junior Club
- 34• Ricordo grato di due grandi Panathleti

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# Young people are our best gamble towards recovery

For two years now, the main concern across the world has been the public health crisis created by Covid.

For the first time, since the beginning of 2022, we can really see the light at the end of the tunnel. In many countries, the progression of severe Covid cases is slowing down, or even reversing. While I am writing, it seems that, particularly in Europe, its noose is loosening. It seems as though our routine behaviours, which we mechanically adopt - wearing a mask, social distancing - will soon become a thing of the past.



In Panathlon, the crisis has left important and often unfortunate marks. The elderly were the most affected by the severe forms of the disease. Our clubs, whose members are mostly elderly, sometimes well over their eighties, have paid a hefty toll during the pandemic. The lack of social activity and of warm face-to-face gatherings has sometimes deterred members from meeting up. Some clubs, especially the smallest ones, have suspended or even stopped their activities.

Nonetheless, it should be noted that several clubs, taking advantage of the significant progress in communication technology, have multiplied their meetings online, thus maintaining, or in some cases even expanding, their activities. Some clubs, on their own or in cooperation with other associations within their area, have also organized, at a lower cost, some remarkable conferences using this new technology. I myself was able to take part in many of them by remote link. Their contribution is invaluable.

One of the major concerns of our Movement is, and remains, its rejuvenation.

The article by Renata Soliani on this very subject, which you will find in this issue, analyses the situation and outlines some ways to encourage the enrolment of young members, subject to some statutory and regulatory adjustments.

Also worth reading, still on this topic, is the refreshing article by Lorenzo d'Ilario, president of the brand new Rome Junior Club, in which he mentions that this has always been a key concern for Panathlon International. The statute amendments proposed in Molfetta in 2020 were in line with taking young people into greater consideration within Panathlon International. Other proposals will be submitted to the clubs during the general and extraordinary assembly meetings, to be held in Lausanne on the 11th June 2022.

Panathlon International Representations in Brussels and Lausanne continue to carry out their activities in a sustained way. The International Board equipped the Lausanne Representation with a project development working group, whose goals are to keep these Representations up and running, to concretely mark P.I. presence in the Olympic and the European capital cities, and to make them a lasting presence and voice in the world of sport.

I wish you all a good reading and I look forward to seeing you in Lausanne on the 10th and 11th June 2022.

**Pierre Zappelli**  
*International President*

# IOC and UNODC extend MoU to fight corruption and crime in sport

## *Special attention will be devoted to the Olympic Games*

by Pawan Mathur

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) is committed to strengthening the integrity of sport organisation. Ensuring the credibility of sporting events and that of sports governing bodies remains a top priority for the IOC. As such, the IOC collaborates with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to address sport integrity issues such as addressing corruption in sport and, specifically, preventing the manipulation of competition. The two organisations regularly review the effectiveness of their joint initiatives and develop them further to address new trends and needs.

As part of this increasing collaboration, the IOC and UNODC have extended their Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to further strengthen the cooperation between the two organisations in fighting corruption and crime in sport. The new agreement has a particular focus on preventing youth crime, violence and drug use through sport and was signed at the Olympic House in Lausanne, Switzerland, by the IOC President Thomas Bach and UNODC Executive Director Ghada Waly.

The new agreement between the IOC and UNODC will remain in force until the end of 2025 and covers the following areas of cooperation:

- 1) supporting capacity building, training programs, awareness raising events and related initiatives aimed at tackling corruption and crime in sport, including within sport organisations and the manipulation of sports competitions, as well as preventing youth crime, violence and drug use through sport;
- 2) exchanging information and expertise, including through participation in conferences, regular meetings, contribution to studies, development of technical tools and publications regarding tackling corruption and crime in sport, as well as preventing youth crime, violence and drug use through sport; and
- 3) supporting activities to enhance sport's contribution to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and promoting sport for development and peace also through joint programming, including in the context of Olympic and Paralympic Games and other sport events.

Commenting on the significance of the extended collaboration, Thomas Bach, the IOC President, said:

***"The IOC is a values-based organisation. Therefore, we have***



***the duty to uphold good governance and integrity. This MoU will greatly strengthen the cooperation between the IOC and UNODC. We will cooperate in a number of different areas, specifically on capacity-building, training programs and awareness-raising events that aim to tackle corruption and crime in sport. In addition, we will collaborate in the prevention of the manipulation of sports competitions. Through the extended cooperation, we will also use sport as a tool to prevent youth crime, violence and drug use."***

UNODC Executive Director Waly said: ***"2021 is a landmark year for global anti-corruption action, and international mobilization to protect the integrity of sport is stronger than ever."***

***Under the new agreement, UNODC and the IOC will build on this momentum to help countries safeguard sport, but also leverage its power to strengthen youth resilience against crime, and shape more inclusive and just societies."***

Thus, placing integrity at the core of sport is crucial to ensure that sport emerges from this challenge as strong as possible and is ready to play its fundamental role in society.

(source: <https://www.newdelhitimes.com/ioc-and-unodc-extend-mou-to-fight-corruption-and-crime-in-sport/>)

# To broaden the frontiers of our mission in sport

## *Members from four countries - Chaired by Peter van Campenhout from Belgium*

The Board of Panathlon International has approved the new Expansion Commission (PIEC), composed by the following members: Patrick Van Campenhout (Chairman), Francesco Garbarini, Fábio Figueiras (Secretary), Bruno Catelin, Oronzo Amato, and Nils Van de Velden.

As a first undertaking, the new commission has launched an information plan targeted to clubs and members in the form of a Newsflash, a modern method of communication detailing all the characteristics and functions of the Panathlon International Expansion Committee, when it was created, its mandate and its composition.

The Newsflash will provide an update on the setting up of new clubs and new insights on an ancient debate: how to set up more clubs. Finally, you will find an overview of the events promoted by our Clubs and/or the activities related to their establishment.

The PIEC mandate is loaded with various responsibilities and tasks, including to know and analyse the current paradigm of international sport; verify how international sport associations, organizations and all their stakeholders can contribute to this activity, as well as understand the goals of Panathlon International and the importance of the mandate entrusted to the PIEC.

The PIEC will provide a comprehensive analysis and will identify and study the current trend and momentum of international sports, while also examining the role and contribution of Panathlon International. The PIEC will assist and contribute to the creation and refloating of clubs and will carry out an analysis and a survey of the current conditions of existing clubs.

Finally, the PIEC will promote and propose to the parties involved any suggestions and proposals for modification, whenever these are identified and deemed necessary.

The contribution of all recipients will be crucial, as the PIEC intention is also to have a more inclusive and engaging communication with all members. Its plan is also to issue written reports on its activity, to maintain close contact with P.I. General Secretary, the President and the International Board.

In giving the greenlight to the new Expansion Commission, the International Board has underlined with

satisfaction its ground-breaking impetus compared to the past. The Expansion Commission has always been the advanced outpost for the global expansion of Panathlon International's ideals, particularly in the continents and countries where our values are not yet known.

Other members have endeavoured this in the past, often with great difficulty. The hope is that this team, thanks also to new technology, may be able to recover what has been lost along the way, and guarantee increasingly ambitious achievements for our mission.



*The constituent meeting of the Expansion Commission at P.I. headquarters, in Rapallo*

# Integrity in sport

## Agreement between 49 nations

*International cooperation against corruption and crime in sport for good governance*

The International Conference “Integrity in Sport”, co-organized by **EPAS - Council of Europe (Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport)** and the Department of Sport of the Presidency of the Italian Council of Ministers, was held in Rome and was the first event of the sport program of the Semester of the Italian Presidency of the Council of Europe, in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Council of Europe, with headquarters in Strasbourg, was founded in 1949 for the promotion of dialogue, cultural cooperation and the defence of human rights. Today it consists of 49 member states, including Italy, one of the founding countries, which joined the EPAS program for Sport in 2020.

The **Extended Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS)** is an intergovernmental forum enriched by an advisory body consisting of representatives from the world of sport and civil society. After the recent accession of Italy, Turkey and Ukraine, EPAS now includes 40 member states (including some non-member states of the Council of Europe such as Morocco, Israel and Belarus), and 29 sports organizations.

Panathlon International has been a member of the EPAS Scientific Advisory Board since 2009, after a complex accession procedure promoted by past President Giacomo Santini, then MP and member of the Italian delegation to the Council of Europe.

The aim of the conference in Rome was to outline and plan the next initiatives that EPAS, the Copenhagen Group of the Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions and their partners will have to undertake in view of a cooperative approach within the policy areas, such as drawing up guidelines on integrity in sport, fight against the manipulation of sports competitions and support for the introduction of good governance practices in sport.

The hybrid event allowed for an important participation, extended to the major public authorities of different sectors involved in crime prevention and the

promotion of integrity in sport, as well as to partner organizations of sport groups, representatives of the betting trade and sport-related NGOs: **Council of Europe, Ministry of the Interior, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Finnish Ministry of Sport, Israeli Ministry of Sport, The Holy See, Swiss Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Italian Direzione Nazionale Antimafia (DNA), Government of Northern Macedonia, INTERPOL, Sport Integrity Australia, EGLA, EUROPOL, EFECC, French Anti-Corruption Agency, CONI, IOC, IPACS, I Trust Sport.**

Illegal practices in sport have been among the main sources of concern and discussion in recent years: involvement of organized crime, money laundering, tax evasion, corruption in connection with major events, violence, gender discrimination, racism, doping, match-fixing, illegal betting, child trafficking, abuse and other unlawful acts and misconduct.

The strengthening of international cooperation in the field of sport integrity is a fundamental component not only for the efficiency and effectiveness of anti-corruption action but, more generally, for the development of the potential of sport aimed at civil, social and economic progress.

The conference made it possible to pay even more attention to the respect for those principles that are the foundation of the Organization, which also provided a guiding light in times of crisis like the pandemic, providing responses that respect human rights, laws and democracy.

This important collective effort follows the Italian Presidency of the G20, which saw the adoption of the G20 High-Level Principles on Tackling Corruption in Sport. It also made it possible to share some examples of support and monitoring of good governance in sport, based on sharing information and on data protection, as established under the Magglingen/Macolin Convention.

A vital role is played by **IPACS (International Partnership Against Corruption in Sport)**, an informal network of



intergovernmental organizations, international sports organizations and governments.

**Viktoria Slavkova**, coordinator of IPACS European group, made an impactful speech: “The principles of good governance such as transparency, integrity, democracy, accountability, control and balance, should apply both to the governmental authorities in charge of sport and to non-governmental sport organizations.

The very nature of sport, based on fair play, requires that all unethical practices and behaviours in sport must be vigorously and effectively opposed. The European governments have identified 6 major recommendations on 50 benchmarks to start with, which will soon be published officially”.

**Stanislas Frossard**, Executive Secretary of EPAS, summarized the key takeaways from the two days of debate: “There are four overarching trends that I wish to point out: first of all, the conference showed that there is a high demand for international standards, which are key to integrity in sport and go beyond domestic criticalities.

A second aspect is crime prevention, which leads us to take into consideration those criminal laws where sport is often on the sidelines.

This is why we should work with **UNODC** to implement appropriate and targeted laws.

Thirdly, we must raise awareness and maximise the development of skills in dealing with financial crimes, involving both confiscation and the fight against money laundering, insisting on international collaboration. The fourth point is that whistleblowing must be supported, because we have seen how much it helps to improve to prevent and fight against crime, as well as the involvement of athletes and the important role of investigative journalism”.



# Young people in Panathlon

## From utopia to reality?

*From junior to university clubs, the experience gained to create appeal beyond age*

by Renata Soliani  
Former International Board Member  
Panathlete Club Como

To those who ask me why I chose Panathlon International (P.I.) to carry out voluntary work, I answer that I have chosen this Association because I am aware it allows the indisputable enhancement of my sporting vocation and professional growth. I have repeatedly said that I love sport as a means of conveying great benefits, and that I was able to live my roles as a sportswoman and a teacher consistently with an ideal that enables not only to highlight the importance of taking part and not just of winning, but also the opportunity to propose strategies that transform every sporting event in a privileged moment of fair and free growth.

I had approached my home-town Panathlon Club during a convivial dinner I had been invited to, at a time when the Club was at the forefront of its educational and social role in the wake of the Extraordinary General Meeting, held in Venice in 1991, which had emphasized Panathlon's "Service Club" character and established its first two commissions in our area: one for the disabled and one for young people.

Former International President Antonio Spallino used to repeat that ***"Sport is involved in the evolution of Society: it cannot be an island in the world and sportsmen cannot ignore history, which forms their day-to-day direct experience. We must determine how we want to be present in our society because we are a service-oriented club, and our 'raison d'être' is our being able to make ourselves useful to others. Our action must therefore be projected towards the future. Only in this way will we fulfill our task to be of service to sport and society"***.

The Club proved to be truly operational and a reference point for Schools, Councils, Sports Clubs and Associations. By joining it, I could set free my drive to interact. I still remember with amazement one of the first meetings I attended as a member (thirty years have gone by): the attending panathletes were debating on a topic still on the agenda of today's in councils and meetings. The first question that gave rise to fertile discussion was: "Why are young people not willing to join our Clubs?". Next to me, I recognized people with an outstanding sport and cultural background. How could I work along-

side them? Action was the trigger that encouraged my panathletic journey with the belief, combined with the passion that still drives me, that confirms the value of the Olympic principles, intended as a "philosophy of life" that aims at extolling, in a balanced way, the power of the body, mind and spirit.

This course of action is shared by the "older" members and made possible, above all, thanks to the cooperation with the "younger" ones.

When I was elected to the International Board in 2004 (its name at the time was "Central" Board), I was well aware not just of the honour bestowed on me but also of the responsibilities I would assume. In the following eight years, I could witness the global vision of the movement. Panathlon International has always shown an aptitude for embracing the new, interpreting it and modifying the *modus operandi*, adapting them to the contexts in which every single club operates. In this perspective, it has offered important cultural support – i.e. the Panathlon Declaration On Ethics In Youth Sport, the Charter of Fair Play, the Charter of the Duties of Parents In Sport - in order to elicit valuable contributions of ideas and passion.

Since 2005, Panathlon International has set up a "youth project" starting with the creation of the Junior Club. The idea of encouraging membership rejuvenation was developed since the very first meetings of the Central Board, under Enrico Prandi's presidency. Following the presentation of the Panathlon Declaration on Ethics in Youth Sport in Ghent (Belgium, September 2004), Vice-President Vic De Donder endorsed the creation of a first Panathlon Junior (P.J.) Club coordinated by his son. The Club proved to be very active by taking part, among other events, in an important international conference in Finland. At this point the road was open, so much so that, from 2005/2006, other Junior Clubs began were set up as additional opportunities in the successful attempt to involve youngsters in the panathletic movement.

Starting from 2008, IOC President Jacques Rogge proposed the creation of the Youth Olympic Games.





Panathlon International contributed to this project through the invaluable support of Vice-President Maurizio Monego, appointed by President Prandi to be part of the working group that the IOC had set up to draft the educational-cultural programs, in view of the first edition of the Games, which subsequently took place in Singapore in 2010.

As per the regulation, published on Panathlon International website, people of both sexes and aged between 18 and 32 are invited to join the Junior Clubs. The only essential requirement is, of course, to share P.I. principles. Today, the average age of our ordinary members is fairly high, although the number of younger members has recently shown a slight increase. The past two difficult years, affected by the pandemic, obviously do not help the statistics, but it is certain that it is the most senior members who stay on, and mainly in the Club to which they belong. Currently there are 13 Junior Clubs: 11 in Italy, 1 Mexico and 1 in Brazil. Over the years, some have stayed on, others have closed, and new ones have opened up. Among the initiatives to raise awareness about Panathlon International and attract the younger generations, it is worth mentioning the foundation of the University Panathlon Clubs (PCU), promoted by Enrico Prandi 11 years ago.

Many clubs have thus been set up in the universities that, prior to the pandemic, took part in the Inter-University Games, coordinated by PCU Antwerpen. As soon as normal public health conditions are restored, this line of action under P.I. expansion policy should be resumed, as it affords great potential.

Experience has shown that most panathletes would like to see young people inspired by passion, skill and dedication to sport join the clubs with enthusiasm, and willing to align their personal convictions with our statutory principles.

The prevailing idea that emerged from the various meetings, of which I am aware, is to define “young” all members under forty years old, but obviously other options are possible. For the group between 18 and 32 years of age, the criticalities, as often stressed, are of various types.

### **AGE AND STIMULUS**

Being aware that the average age of our members is quite high, one may confidently say that this reality is discouraging for young people who may find it hard to identify topics and interests, even in terms of language, on which to interact. How to take action? The objective is to develop new operational methods that can offer them the opportunity to contribute actively. We know from experience that they certainly aspire to make themselves useful for their communities, and that sport can take on both the role and the intent of improving the society where they live. I cite two operational examples to illustrate different approaches.

In 2009, at a convention in San Marino, the young members of PJ Carrara and Massa, most of whom, unlike colleagues from other clubs, were not children of panathletes, said that they had joined Panathlon thanks to what they had received in the past from P.I.. Many of them were winners of literary competitions run by the

city club, or past “student-athlete” award-winners. They got together and organised discussion panels and run literary competitions in schools. In partnership with the local CONI branch, they conducted a survey among high school students on the use of drugs and doping. “Doping? No thanks, I play sport” was the title of the project, the results of which were then published.

An article of “Il Nuovo Torrazzo” (a weekly magazine of the Diocese of Crema) entitled “Never underestimate the importance of sport”, dated 4th February 2021, reports a press release from Panathlon Junior Crema: ***“What we, members of PJ Crema, would like to avoid is that sport remains something ‘to think about later’; therefore, we are here to lend our voice so that the true essence of sport may be grasped, i.e. it being an indication of well-being, good health and happiness for every individual. Let us think about children and young people who are experiencing, at this time in history, important moments for their development and growth in front of a monitor; for them, sport could become a means to have fun and to break away from what is now a dull and forced sedentary lifestyle”.***

On this basis, the Junior Club joined forces with its “sponsor” club in promoting local sporting activity, with a look and a thought also to all the managers of gyms and sports centres who were going through a particularly tough moment.

In October 2020, during the General Meeting in Osimo, International President Pierre Zappelli, also mentioned in his report the many clubs that had taken steps, in the difficult period of the first wave of the pandemic, to put forward solidarity as their primary objective. Club Como, for instance, established a special post-Covid-emergency commission comprised of several panathletes, of various ages, who undertook a tireless work of research and selection to identify sport clubs suitable to receive financial support for the “restart”.

This was the case of many other clubs, whose actions were reported in P.I. newsletter and can also be found in District Italy’s Lettera22, as well as on the websites and Facebook pages of both P.I. and the Districts. I have mentioned this last example because I am convinced that Commissions – that should be established for all sectors that are a priority for the Club, in compliance with our statutory purposes – are the right channel to awaken interest even in younger age groups. Young members may be actively involved in these Commissions and contribute ideas that will bring forward new projects resulting from proactive cooperation between different generations. Mutual support will thus unite the young and the not-so-young in implementing any useful services planned. In line with the prerogatives of the Club and the objectives of Panathlon International, it will also be possible to encourage a good level of independence in the initiatives to be undertaken.

It will fall on the youngest to provide a more modern and current communication style in ways that allow them to meet up and interact also with other gene-

rations. Also thanks to my personal experience, I am convinced that communication, i.e. the ability to convey knowledge, values, feelings, emotions, and expectations, combined with life experience (work - service - culture) matching the contents transmitted, can really nurture the desire to be part of the chosen group. Furthermore, younger members may also play a key role in direct communication in schools, based on the principle of peer education, which would certainly be very effective in allowing to overcome the barrier of generational distance.

## MEMBERSHIP FEE

It is fair to be required to pay a fee, as symbolic as this might be. In this respect, a two-pronged problem arises: the independence that young people demand and the need to guarantee equal rights within Panathlon International.

The former issue is easily solved by streamlining the procedures and obligations vis-à-vis Panathlon’s General Secretariat, in order to reduce red tape.

The latter is a trickier one because it could clash with the prerogatives and the obligations of ordinary members. However, several solutions may be thought of: one could be to add a new category, called “Junior Members”, in P.I. Statute, with characteristics to be defined, especially with regard to the payment of fees.

Another option, involving no regulatory modification, could be to require the clubs to pay the ordinary fee as per the International Statute, while authorizing them to diversify the all-in membership fee within their remit. For instance, they could provide for total or partial exemption, or for a discounted fee as determined by the club assembly, paying particular attention to the age of the beneficiaries in order not to fall into “forgetfulness” when they turn thirty-two or reach the age limit set for this category of panathletes.

## TIME

It is essential to listen to the new young members to understand how much time they can dedicate to the Association in their early years of membership, so as to guarantee them adequate solutions to fit their needs and not to overburden them with tasks that may conflict with their professional life.

Finally, it will be necessary to ensure that the Club can offer all its members discussions about current sport topics by organising convivial events with champions, writers, and speakers who can engage everyone present, regardless of their age. In this way, young and not so young members could benefit from each other, always abiding by the principles of respect and support, friendship and sharing.

# The appeal from Pope Francis: “A kick to exclusion”

## *From a very special football match, a message of universal brotherhood*

The Culture of Sport - “A kick to exclusion” was the motto of a project that Pope Francis entrusted to the competent Ministry when the World Roma Organization for the fight against discrimination, racism and poverty approached him proposing to organise a football match. The visitors, coming from a very problematic suburb, were treated to a Papal audience, a press conference and hospitality. They then played against the “Pope’s Team - Fratelli Tutti”, worthy opponents trained by Marco Tardelli, former Italian national football player. The match was very enjoyable and ended in 7-7, with national team striker Ciriaco De Simone as a brilliant referee and the hospitality of S.S. Lazio.

Furthermore, Vatican Athletics is pleased to announce its registration with the International Cycling Union (UCI) and the International Taekwondo Federation (ITF).

Archbishop Melchor Sánchez de Toca was in Olympia, Greece, for a conference aimed at bringing together the world of secular and religious sports; he had also been in Paris for the 41st Session of the UNESCO General Conference.

Sport is one of the most important phenomena of our culture, considering that every week it mobilizes hundreds of thousands of people. The sport market manages astronomical figures and is also capable of unleashing the strongest passions. It makes millions of people dream and, during an important final match, it even manages to silence guns. It is a factor of social gathering,

but also an expression of violent fanaticism and racism. This phenomenon, so prominent in human life, deserves to be studied, analysed, understood, and valued, in order to answer two big questions: What does sport have to say to the Church? What does the Church have to say to sport?

In tune with the great objectives of the Pontifical Council for Culture, therefore, the “Culture and Sport” Department of the Vatican:

1. Promotes the encounter between the salvation message of the Gospel and the world of sport, so that it may increasingly open itself to the Christian faith, creator of culture.
2. Encourages the use of sport as an educational resource and a tool for the cultural development of the peoples of the world.
3. Together with other offices of the Holy See operating in this sector, establishes relations with international and Catholic sport organizations.
4. Facilitates the Church-sport dialogue at University, Sports Centres and Sport Organizations level, while promoting contacts between these cultural environments.



*Priests and seminarians on the pitch for St Peter's Cricket Club*



# Sport as an antidote to the “hikikomori” syndrome

*It affects young people forced to stay indoors due to the pandemic*

by Enrico Fora  
Co-editor of “ACSI Magazine”



The “*hikikomori*” phenomenon (from the Japanese hiku “pull back” and komoru “withdraw”, which essentially means “to isolate oneself”) is spreading in Italy. Forced confinement - dictated by the pandemic lockdown - has exacerbated the distress experienced by adolescents. It is a psycho-emergency affecting the most vulnerable individuals, who self-exile in their own homes by severing ties with their social relations.

Kafka wrote “The Burrow” to exorcise the trauma of returning to supposed normality. The pandemic has crumbled the castle of our certainties. Quarantine has forced reflux into private life. Outwith the domestic trench, rages an invisible xenomorphic alien that does not come from a sidereal wormhole, as ufologists predicted, but rather escapes from a criminal terrestrial laboratory to then settle into host organisms.

Everyone becomes - in mass psychosis - a potential plague-spreader of the allochthonous species. Disturbing, almost cyclical analogies with historical epidemics that have subverted the existential and evolutionary cycles of humanity are evoked. The fearful nihilism of an alarming percentage of

adolescents - already exhausted by the social unease of postmodernity - plunges into the phobic search for “Kafka’s burrow”, where to lock up a primordial survival instinct.

The degenerations of the “hikikomori” syndrome lead to digital overdose through the spasmodic identification of braggart and salvific psycho-gurus, but they also lead to alcoholism, drug addiction, abuse of antidepressants, hypochondria, BPD (borderline personality disorder) and sometimes suicide.

In his work “The Heuristics of Fear”, Hans Jonas - German philosopher and a pupil of Heidegger - is a far-sighted forerunner who warns mankind: the current inability to establish a symbiotic balance in the social, economic, cultural, anthropological, and environmental context is increasingly evident.

In the vulnerable collective imagination of adolescents, this perverse, clouded self-defeating conformism of the “dominant class” leads to the destruction of its own species and ecosystem. We are at the showdown, at the extreme *redde rationem*, therefore, a new vision of

the most advanced “star seeds” must emerge from an enlightened and conscious elite, as Sennar Karu hopes.

During the most vicious phase of the pandemic, ACSI, Pietro Mennea Foundation and the “Hands Off Our Children” National Committee have successfully launched an awareness campaign documented in “ACSI Magazine”.

The following are the harbingers of the new focus on youth:

on n. 53 of 10 June 2020, journalist Sabrina Parsi, Chief Editor of “ACSI Magazine” (Hikikomori: a Japanese social phenomenon strikes Italy); on n. 58 of 25 September 2020, prof. Luca Poma, National Spokesperson of “Hands Off Our Children” Committee (The abuse of antidepressants in adolescents: sport as a psycho-social antidote); on n. 59 of 10 October 2020, on n. 60 of 25 October 2020, on n. 61 of 10 November 2020, on n. 62 of 25 November 2020, and on n. 63 of 10 December 2020, Dr. Paolo Migone, Co-director of the magazine “Psicoterapia e Scienze Umane” (Medications marketing: how pharmaceutical companies affect our lives); on n. 63 of 10 December 2020, lawyer Manuela Olivieri Mennea, President of “Pietro Mennea” Foundation (Pietro Mennea Foundation adheres to the ACSI project - Hands Off Our Children: SOS sport for youth depression); on n. 64 of 10 January 2021, prof. Luca Poma, National spokesperson of the Committee “Hands Off Our Children” (What surprises are in store for our children in 2021? Psychotropic drugs for children and adolescents); on n. 67 of 25 February 2021, psychologist Barbara Franco and psychotherapist Stefania Rotondo (The superpower of mindfulness for children); on n. 70 of 15 April 2021, interview with Dr. David Lazzari, President of the National Council of Chartered Psychologists (SOS sport for juvenile depression).

The media emphasize the numbers of vaccinations but ignore the emotional and social pathos of youth depression, which is now at the top of the most common pathologies in Italy. Prominent voices point to an alarming growth trend at international level. The research study - published in the Journal of Abnormal Psychology - conducted by Prof. Jean Twenge, author of the book “iGen” and professor of psychology at San Diego State University, is emblematic.

The screening involved over 200,000 adolescents, aged between 12-17, and nearly 400,000 18-25 year olds. The percentage of individuals reporting depressive symptoms increased by 52% in adolescents and by 63% among 18-25 year olds. Also to be highlighted the 71% rise in young adults who have shown signs of severe stress. Finally, the dramatic emergency of 43% of young people who declared they obsessively contemplate suicide.

ACSI, Pietro Mennea Foundation and the “Hands Off Our Children” Committee (the largest Italian entity involved in paediatric pharmaco-vigilance) have activated a permanent observatory, soliciting the attention of the media and political institutions on the risk of antidepressant abuse among youngsters. Authoritative and qualified personalities adhere to this mobilization, geared towards a “sustainable psychology”.

Sport - by unanimous consensus - is now an inalienable right, deeply rooted in the social and health-oriented dynamics of our complex contemporary life. It captures youth discomfort through an educational and formative message that elicits socialization and sharing. It opens a psycho-therapeutic communication channel to embark on a path of social reintegration, self-esteem and promotion of values.

Its “historic” vocation of prevention and support alleviates the burden of costs on the National Health Service. The time is now ripe - for sport - to influence choices, to open debates with institutions and local authorities, to play a leading role in setting up policies aimed at the psycho-physical protection of our adolescents.

# Panathlon International's appeal to restore freedom

## *Panathlon International solidarity for oppressed Afghan sportswomen*

It is widely known that the return to power of the Taliban in Afghanistan has restored a series of constraints and limitations to individual freedoms, even in the most fundamental activities such as work, education, culture and sport.

Panathlon International is seriously concerned about the limitations imposed on the practice of sports, especially towards women.

To protect the athletes who participated in the Tokyo Olympics, the IOC took action by finding solutions that allow them to stay out of Afghanistan and continue practicing the sport.

Even some athletes who will participate in the Beijing Games have not returned to their country. In addition, around 100 athletes belonging to the Afghan Olympic family received humanitarian assistance and could leave the country with the help of the IOC, together with other members of the Olympic Movement. The Afghan Olympic Committee, elected in 2018, remains the only one recognized by the IOC.

In the past few years, women in Afghanistan had gained encouraging recognition in various sports as an expression of freedom and independence. In many cases, some had made significant improvements from a technical-sporting point of view and were also progressing towards a competitive level.

In any case, sport has been extended also to women all the benefits it entails in terms of psychophysical and ethical growth.

Panathlon International hopes that, as soon as possible, the new rulers will lift these bans and allow everyone, especially women, to return to sport fields and gyms, as they used to do not so long ago.





# What is Fair Play?

## Where can it be found?

by Giacomo Santini  
International Past President  
Head of P.I. Communication

“Fair play” means much more than simply playing fairly; actually, in a moral and deontological sense, it would be reductive not to go beyond this meaning.

Fair play is a philosophy of life that cannot be built or bought. It is a feeling inborn in human DNA and maturing with it over the years. There are rules of conduct that can be learned within the family, or at school, and that comply with the fundamental rules of civic life. Fair play involves a vocation to generosity and sacrifice that comes from the bottom of the heart; it stimulates the brain and inspires coherent and spontaneous behaviours. Fair play cannot be imposed nor programmed. It unfolds in the least predictable moments and it makes the difference between those who possess it as a natural gift and those who do not know its value.

Sport is the world in which events that inspire fair play occur fairly often and in full view, but it can also take place in private, at all levels, in many areas.

At work, for instance, or at school, on the street, even in the most normal relationships with others, a moment may arise in which those who possess the gift of fair play resolve a situation in a different way than those who do not know it.

Panathlon International's commitment, in its promotional campaigns aimed at encouraging and promoting chivalrous behaviour in sport, starts from these preconditions. Ethics is the foundation of fair play, that is to say, the belief that respect for others' rights and values must be a priority in every situation in life. Ethics is not a law, but a natural moral style based on the sum of human fundamental values and on the belief that only mutual respect can govern the relationships between people.

In sport, fair play often takes on spectacular expressions when it arises during competitive events. Every year we celebrate and reward cases of athletes who, in a gesture of fair play towards a teammate or an opponent in trouble, jeopardise their own sporting results.

These episodes are highly educational for training young sportsmen who will learn to give the right weight to sport, both in victory and in defeat. But I think that, to highlight the values of fair play, it is not necessary to wait for the exceptional or the spectacular gesture, but the same educational goal may be reached by emphasizing “ordinary”, every day, spontaneous behaviours, inspired by simplicity and humility.

Those who practice fair play are generally calm, balanced and straightforward people, who never seek drama, or anything spectacular, and this is why, very often, those who are rewarded for their fair play believe that they have done nothing special, but simply followed their instinct.



In sport, fair play is synonymous with generosity and selflessness, and it helps young people grow with the right psycho-physical balance, inspired by ethics and integrity. The value of this approach should not be measured according to sport results or the prizes awarded each year to the most striking cases of fair play, but according to its important educational effect. An athlete trained in the respect of ethics will surely be a good citizen of tomorrow, law-abiding and capable to properly engage in the spectrum of life's commitments and their most varied instances.

Panathlon International, it goes without saying, is not the only association pursuing this educational policy; there are other associations in the world that pursue the same purposes, such as the Comité International pour le Fair Play (CIFP) and the European Fair Play Movement (EFPM).

Their role is not competing with but complementing Panathlon International's. The joint action of these three organizations is raising great awareness, in the world of sport, towards fair play policies, on the part of the International Olympic Committee, the National Olympic Committees and the Sport Federations of the various disciplines.

Clear proof is the agreement reached to celebrate the “Fair Play Day” on 7th September, all together and all over the world.

It was an extremely important step forward, not only to celebrate the virtuous cases of Fair Play but also to highlight the commitment of these three organizations in the fight against those aspects of sport that threaten ethics, such as doping, match-fixing and the excessive influence of money in sport clubs and in the organization of World Championships and the Olympics. When sport finally releases itself from this dangerous contamination, Fair Play will triumph.

# Panathlon International and its Clubs

## *Different dimensions for a single goal: the culture of sport*

by Maurizio Monego

It has been thirty years since Panathlon International has decisively embarked on the path of action, thus strengthening its character of club service; since then, its clubs have intensified their activities at community level. This has resulted in greater focus onto the local sport clubs and has boosted commitment to social issues, through targeted initiatives, both at organizational and cultural level. Proximity to local sporting events, various kinds of awards to emphasize merits and values, meetings in schools and in public venues are the most appreciated aspects of action developed by the clubs. Those clubs who best bring them to light, in terms of content and communication skills, are thus acknowledged for their credibility, authority and helpfulness within their own communities.

The needs of each territory, be it a town or a region, can vary. Over time, many clubs have demonstrated, and continue to confirm, their value through the promotion of ethics, fair play, integration and inclusion, supporting solidarity and sowing the seeds of sport culture in the education of the young – and the not-so-young – as well as respect for the environment, health, and giving meaning to sports practice for all. The champions who are often involved are happy to lend their image and testimony to help the clubs.

In Italy we can count on a Panathlon District that finally shows that it has understood its role and delivers successful service. Paradoxically, this was achieved during the pandemic period. Covid has helped to develop these activities – this is the only positive effect of the scourge that is affecting our lives – making us discover the advantage of breaking free, in many cases, from the organizational burden associated with in-person participation, guaranteeing a theoretically more numerous attendance. What is important, however, is that these events do not become inflated, that they are specifically targeted to important issues and that those entrusted with illustrating these issues have unquestioned competence.

The Conference “Sport in old age - Why stay active and healthy” held in Venice last June, the National Forum in October, organized in association with the Education Office IX of Lucca and Massa Carrara about “Restarting School”, and the training project for sports operators “Managers for sport ethics”, which will be delivered in 2022 in cooperation with Sport e Salute and Scuola dello Sport, are examples that further the awareness

and prestige of Panathlon International. The outcomes of those conferences and of the upcoming course will have to be heightened by the clubs' field activity. The same is true for some of the events taking place in Central and South America, and for the next Pan-American Congress, which will be held in Bolivia at the end of January.

Furthermore, all these activities call upon the “Commission for Culture, Science and Education” (CCSE) to identify themes and speakers for a wide-ranging congress and to provide appropriate guidance for research and implementation, thus further raising the cultural level of Panathlon International.

This is already happening through the initiatives that Panathlon International is carrying out in partnership with other international and European institutions and organizations.

The 3/2021 issue of our magazine, released by the General Secretariat, contains articles that deserve particular attention; specifically those by Enrico Fora (pg. 4) on sustainable sport, by Malcom Foster (pg. 6) on sport as experienced by refugees, by Paul Standaert (pg. 10) on EWOS 2021, by Fabrizio Coniglio (pg. 11) with the interview with Stefano Bizzozzi and by Patrick Van Campenhout (pg. 30).

The topics covered provide a very good picture of the cultural interests of Panathlon International and of the fields in which it operates, and although, perhaps, not everyone is familiar with the acronyms of organizations and projects popping up every so often, they relate to programs and events that include Panathlon International among the leading players in culture and sport policies.

To understand the magnitude of these initiatives, it is necessary to gather information. The Web, if used smartly, is a very useful tool, and the contents of the magazine suggest where to search for further information. Without entering into the articles and topics mentioned, which we leave to the readers' curiosity, it is evident that the three aforesaid dimensions – Club, District, Panathlon International – are linked by a thread which we should learn to understand and follow.

The strength of Panathlon Movement lies in its clubs, in their presence in the community, and in the effectiveness of the actions they carry out. Their inputs, their suggestions, their lines of action do stem from the club

managers' initiatives and the opportunities arising from time to time but, on closer inspection, they originate and can be traced back to the programs and achievements at higher organizational levels. Panathlon's charters, ethics plaques, some competitions implemented through its "Domenico Chiesa" Cultural Foundation, are tools available to all clubs. They are the result of international conferences, of engaging with other cultural organizations, of ongoing contacts with international fora gathering different cultures and levels of awareness about sport.

Taking a comprehensive stance on Panathlon's ideals, grasping the overall picture to be pursued at different but equally oriented levels of implementation, translates into a "sense of belonging that confers trust and hope", as recently stated by the Italian President Sergio Mattarella. In the perspective of Panathlon's "community", trust is what is bestowed in our leaders and in the suggested courses of action, whereas hope aims at being able to break through an educational path where our principles and experiences can be fully endorsed. This is, in essence, our utopia.

What Panathlon International achieves, and what the Districts generate, fall back on the clubs in terms of prestige of the institution, and become an incentive for expansion. For example: the Panathlon International

Expansion Committee (PIEC), chaired by Patrick Van Campenhout, got off to a good start and will certainly achieve the results that were hoped for up to now, but seemed unachievable. The new Club Lyon-Métropole in France (2/09/2021) and Club Arenzano in Italy (12/09/2021), are a good starting point that honours the two Districts, but that also reflects a new approach at the international level.

The presence of qualified Panathlon International delegates at international conferences and symposia, and its representation offices contribute to raise the association's world-wide profile, to make it known and appreciated. This is the way forward and the sooner we become aware of it, the sooner we will achieve growth and prestige.





# Physical exercise: it's great but it can also do harm

*The type and amount of effort expended in sport should be calibrated at any age*

by Alberto Piraccini(\*)

People talk, more and more often, at all levels, of engaging in physical exercise to achieve and obtain a state of general well-being for all individuals - men and women, children, the elderly, the disabled... What do we gain, or should we gain, from this activity? For example: reduced body weight, decreased heart rate, better postural balance, better suppleness in general ...

I believe there are THREE interrelated and inter-independent "phases" that should, indeed must, therefore, be distinguished in order to obtain positive and lasting results:

A) Physical exercise

B) Physical education

C) Physical culture

Physical exercise, meant as an activity that will contribute to our physical well-being, can take a thousand of different forms: running, walking, swimming, cycling. Basically, whenever we engage in a voluntary contraction, for whatever reason, our muscles consume calories. Without calorie consumption, the exercise is not effective. It is thought that carrying out any physical exercise is effective, necessary and useful... This is not always true. Often, in good faith and out of unawareness, we go too far in one way or another: either too much exercise, or too little.

It is not guaranteed that every time we take a "little stroll" we do "good" to our body or that whenever we fancy a 3 or 4 miles walk, possibly at a fast pace or uphill, it is right and properly done. Our ankles, knees, lower back suffer because they are not yet trained properly, or as they should be. Therefore, we should check with an expert that our physical work is done correctly; reach out to a qualified trainer, capable of educating us, of recommending and planning the type of physical exercise suited to our current physical conditions and needs, after a sports medical check-up. Without expert advice, "do-it-yourself" exercise is

often counterproductive and sometimes harmful. We often see men who, after being a couch potato all their life, decide, on the day they retire, that they want to become or return to be "athletes", suddenly subjecting their body and heart to useless and harmful efforts, in particular for joints and ligaments.

Therefore, as mentioned above, we should seek the advice of a true expert who will advise and follow us in our new physical - and social - activity which, if carried out properly and consistently, will give us lasting benefits: that is to say, general well-being.

If we have performed this phase correctly, we have "won a place in the sun", so to speak... The effectiveness and performance of our work, of our commitment, have produced a substantial and lasting change in us, without even noticing it, well... almost. We will become, in a positive way, addicted to this lasting, progressive, methodical and pleasant activity because it suits our abilities and our individual interest (i.e. running, swimming, etc...) rather than improvised mountain climbers or Nile crocodiles.

Having said that, let's go to the most important phase, i.e. "Physical Culture". Culture: harmonious synthesis of a person's knowledge with his/her feelings and experiences, education and beliefs (e.g. musical culture, sports culture, gastronomic culture, etc...). Having entered this third phase means that the physical and psychological change that we wanted and desired has taken place within us.

Now I am a different person than I was when I started practicing sport with method and continuity. A new person has emerged from within, a person who respects his/her body, his/her mind, a person who wants to be healthy and efficient and who takes into account his/her age, his/her general health conditions and his/her environment, hopefully one to live in rather than vegetate.

Therefore, by consciously following and passing through these three phases, we have reached and crossed the finishing line and accomplished a goal that will faithfully stay with us forever.

There are no age limits: we are the ones who limit ourselves, first psychologically then also physically. The correct pace, choice and quality of physical exercise for everyone, once found, just need to be put into practice with determination and passion, and they will become a life choice.

It is not good to say "I am old now", finding an excuse to make us feel less guilty, and dismantling everything we have built; our past achievements should not be thrown away. The proverb "Little but often make much" applies also for individual physical exercise.

***(\*) The author of this article, aged 85, successfully took part in the Italian Masters Athletics Championships; he does not mean to be an example to anyone but is eager to give some (healthy) advice to all those who intend to undertake planned "Physical Exercise", so that it is efficient and effective.***



# Sport, Olympic spirit and the mountains for creative visual artists

*Once defined the programs for 2022, the Foundation has begun the implementation process*



"Domenico Chiesa" Foundation has set up the base programs for their new year social activities, within the framework of Panathlon International ideals.

## **PHOTO CONTEST 2022**

The first stage is the photo competition launched on 14th January from the Facebook page while sending out the Rules and free registration form to all Panathlon International clubs.

The competition is targeted to young people between the ages of 18 and 25; each entrant may take part with a maximum of 4 shots. The technical requirements and the application procedure are described in the Rules. The deadline for sending in the photographs, in digital format, is 6th March 2022.

The theme of the competition is "An invincible summer", within the meaning of Albert Camus' quote: "In the depths of winter, I finally learned that within me there lay an invincible summer", contained in his 1954 lyrical essay "L'Été".

This means that the photos must, to some extent, reflect "that vivid and pulsating energy that, irrespective of painful experiences and hardships, we do have inside ourselves, though often unaware because we can no longer feel that energy, possibly forgotten or lost. The path towards our personal growth is sometimes

nothing but a journey of rediscovery of that original vitality, silenced though not stifled, within ourselves".

## **INTERNATIONAL VISUAL ART COMPETITION**

The partnership with FICTS (Federation Internationale Cinéma Télévision Sportifs) has been reconfirmed. This year we will participate with a section of our own within the program of the "40th Milan International FICTS Fest 2022" where we will run again the competition for short films of a maximum duration of 4 minutes.

The theme of the competition is "Sport, Olympics, Mountains", ideally combining the themes of Beijing Winter Games with those we envision for the next Milan - Cortina edition in 2026 and encompassing a subject that is likely to inspire many aspiring directors. The Rules will be finalized and available by March.

## **VALUE OF THE PROJECTS**

Among the activities carried out by Panathlon International at cultural level, the Foundation is focussed on visual arts. It has done so for 18 years - excluding its collaboration with the Venice Biennale - through the International Graphic Arts Contest, which will be hopefully resumed as soon as the schools will be open again to meetings with the students; it has done so for a few seasons by supporting the Photo Competition organized by Panathlon Club San Marino; it has also done so through the joint exhibitions with the clubs, including the one hosted at the Olympic Museum in Lausanne. Its last undertaking was the Short Film Competition in 2021. In 2022, the Foundation raises the stakes with the two challenges mentioned above.

Along with conferences and participation in international cultural events, through the International President, his Board Members and the "Commission for Culture, Science and Education" (CCSE), the work of the Foundation covers the "aesthetic" aspect of the messages that are proposed, selecting those that are deemed the most appealing to young people.

All this is not different from what the districts, areas or clubs do locally. The Foundation simply wants to underline, at international level, the wealth of commitments that the Panathletic Movement brings forth.



This has a significant impact on the clubs' prestige and finances, thanks to the contributions from the IOC in support of the projects.

For these reasons, I believe that the clubs and every pan-athlete should not only appreciate, but also commit themselves, both individually and through their clubs, to promote these projects and find incentives to support them.

Further information on the nature and activities of Chiesa Foundation is available in a slide presentation in all major languages (PRESENTATION 2002, in pdf format) from Panathlon International website. All the Contact Persons in the clubs received the presentation in PPTX projection format.

## Prizes conferred to the winners of the video competition

The “Testori” Hall of the Lombardy Region Headquarters in Milan hosted the award ceremony of “SPORT MOVIES & TV 2021” - World Final of the 20 Festivals (in the 5 Continents) of the “World FICTS Challenge”, Championship of Television, Cinema, Communication and Sports Culture - and of the International Visual Arts Contest “Sport as Promotion of Human Rights”, created by the Panathlon International - Domenico Chiesa Foundation - in collaboration with FICTS.

In the presence of International President Pierre Zappelli, the three winners received their awards:

### **1st Prize**

**BLU by Paolo Geremei (Italia)**

### **2nd Prize**

**DERRIBANDO BARRERAS A TRAVÉS DEL DEPORTE (Breaking down barriers through sport) by Silvina Forrester (Argentina)**

### **3rd Prize**

**SPORT IS MY RIGHT by Antonello Brustia (Italy)**

**Award Plaque for the highest number of views**

**SPORT IS THE RIGHT TO LIFE by Ekaterina Kudrova (Russia)**

Congratulations to the winners and to all participants!



# Cyclists, men or women, will receive the same prizes

## *Against discrimination in cycling: tangible facts and a call to action as a follow up of the event organized in Brussels in September*

by Paul Standaert  
President District Belgium

We want to fight against women's inequality in sports, in cycling. Gender discrimination affects many equations, ranking from the human to the economical and societal conditions female athletes perform, as well as the role of institutions and of media. We, the organizers, the speakers and participants of the even held on the 16 of September 2021 in Brussels, wish to contribute to change and herewith call all relevant parties to action.

### **Respect for the physical integrity for women in cycling, both professional and recreational.**

This is the first step to make equality reality. Women shall not be exposed to any physical violence, threat and abuses, harassment, stalking and more subtle forms of abuses when practicing their sport, they shall benefit from adequate equipment and sports venues, including facilities such as changing rooms and bathrooms. Training, medical advice, dietary requirements shall be adapted to the needs of the athletes.

Beyond physical integrity, we argue that young women who pursue a semi- professional and professional career in cycling shall be given a chance to combine their sport practice with education or a professional activity, securing economic stability and a future after sport.

### **We therefore invite public authorities to:**

- Provide for a clear legislative framework prohibiting and reprimanding any form of violence on woman in sports;

### **We ask sports federations and cycling teams to:**

- Establish a "risk management" internal control policy, ensuring that no abuses are committed on athletes and that their physical and psychological integrity is guaranteed.
- Appoint an internal reference person to whom female athletes can refer to address any issue affecting their integrity.

### **We invite female athletes to:**

- Expose abuses and look for support. Some organizations are available to help (examples...).

**Every word count:** integrity goes hand in hand with non- discrimination, so we invite sports events orga-



nizers, federations and teams not to "feminize" events, by images, words or attitudes which reinforce the perception that women shall be treated differently and create an unnecessary "women only" characterization.

### **Towards economic and financial equality in woman's cycling:**

more than the half of population is female. Women often play a huge role in education of children, and hence influence the manner society evolves. The purchasing power of women in all societies is huge, their political choices are determining, their contribution in the working environments is fundamental. Women in sport should mirror the increasing role of women in society. They should be able to count on a decent financial compensation to be able to concentrate on their performance.

### **We therefore invite public authorities to:**

- Consider the challenge of securing a minimum revenue for professional and semi-professional female athletes in cycling, by defining a legislative framework which mandates teams and agents to ensure a stable and predictable financial status to female athletes;

### **We ask to sports federations, cycling teams, sponsors**

**and sport event organizers to:**

- Increase the racing opportunities for female cyclists and improve the prizes for winners, both for races and stages. There is no doubt that their efforts will be compensated, both in economical and in reputational terms. More racing opportunities will help female cyclists to plan a career, be acknowledged and to improve their financial situation.

**Equality in exposure, publicity and media coverage in women's cycling.**

Media play a major role in supporting the financial revolution of female cycling. It is also paramount to draw attention to "role models" in this sport to inspire girls who wish to practice this sport, which gives freedom of movement and does not require huge financial investments for the basic equipment from their families.

**We ask to media:**

- To be bold and contribute to change;
- To reserve air-time to women cycling events: there are great athletes, there is a public, there is interest, there is a market;
- To proactively look and promote for role models for youth in women cycling, to encourage young women to pick up this sport, both at professional and at grass root level.

**Empowering women in sports.** There is a clear deficit in women's representation in leadership positions in sports in general, and in cycling specifically, both at political and at organizational level. Many women (athletes and former athletes, professionals in the sport industry, officials in sports federations and organizations, agents, sports event organizers, trainers and health professionals) can contribute to shape and implement a sport policy thanks to their competence, experience and personal approach.

We believe that women in leading positions can play a role in supporting female athletes, understanding their needs, supporting their careers and fostering their success. By encouraging women and athletes of diverse backgrounds, to make a career in sports related professions, including officials in organizations, media or sports advocates, sport events' organizers or sponsors to agents, from trainers to health professional, these organizations would be enriched. In all these segments, the presence and leadership of women needs to be representative. This could be achieved with clear targets to support women's engagement and support within the sport world.

We appreciate the efforts of authorities, at national and international level, the European Commission and the European Parliament, to engage on women empowerment within their remit and capabilities. Efforts shall nevertheless continue.

**We ask the International and national Olympic Committees, sports federations at national and international level, cycling teams, fan clubs:**

- To proactively invite women to be candidates for

any leading position when available

- To invite Organizations to fix targets and objectives re: women inclusions and empowerment in their leadership.
- When Organizations benefit from public funding, to ensure that there is always the choice between a man and a woman for the appointment to a given position. We strongly advise to implement substantial incentives to encourage Organizations to do so.
- In private organizations, to ensure that women are included in the short list of candidates.

**Panathlon International (PI)** is an International Movement for the promotion and spread of culture and sporting ethics, and it aims to deepen, divulge and defend the values of sport as a tool for training and enhancing the individual and as a vehicle of social integration and solidarity between men and peoples. PI is recognized by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and is a member of the International Fair Play Committee (CIFP) and associate member of the Global Association of International Sports Federations.

**Panathlon International EU Brussels (Panathlon EU Brls)** is part of the network of "Panathlon International", essentially based on the voluntary work of its members. It acts as the representation of Panathlon International to the European Institutions in Brussels. Mr. Philippe Vlaeminck is President and Mrs. Antonella Pederiva is the vice-president.

As meeting point for international organizations in Brussels Panathlon EU Brls aims at being a platform to exchange experience and know-how in the promotion of ethics in Sport. Likewise, the club is active within the European Sport Forum and European Week of Sport.

Finally, Panathlon international EU Brussels is an observer at the "Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS)" of the Council of Europe and substantially contributed to the Charter on the rights of children in sport endorsed by UNICEF and International Federations.

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# Frisbee as a sport

## Professor Francesco Franceschetti, Promoter and Publisher of Ultimate Frisbee (Flying Disc) as a Sports Discipline

*In introducing Professor Francesco Franceschetti as the person who promoted and made known the Ultimate Frisbee sports discipline (the name presently recognized by CONI is FLYING DISC), it is essential to underline that he has always been a sportsman; in fact, he was a secondary school PE teacher, and is now lecturer of various courses at the Faculty of Motor Science of the University of Bologna.*

*He was an athlete, an athletics coach and Province President of FIDAL (Italian Athletics Federation), President of CONI (Italian National Olympic Committee) Bologna, President of CUSB (University of Bologna Sports Centre), Representative of the ER region at CUSI (Italian University Sports Federation), President of the Italian Flying Disc Federation (FIFD), and President anathlon Bononia of Bologna.*



### ULTIMATE FRISBEE

The story that binds prof. Franceschetti to the world of Ultimate Frisbee (UF) started in 1993, when some undergraduates and former university students who were practicing Frisbee as a sport asked Franceschetti to join CUSB, of which he was president. Franceschetti then decided to set up the Ultimate Frisbee section and to include it in the introductory courses to university sport for the development of the Female and Male competitive sectors. Franceschetti understood the value of the game, reiterating several times that UF was an excellent activity in all its three aspects: "physical, technical and behavioural". In the Flying Disc there is no referee, which is very unique. The teams must respect the opponent; therefore, it is undeniable that this sport has educational value".

UF sporting activity first spread in school and then at a sporting and federation level. There was no lack of obstacles to the development and growth of the UF. However, with constant determination and patience, Franceschetti went along with the long waiting time needed for the novelty sport to be accepted. What happened was silent contamination, following the explosion of projects and practitioners both at school and in affiliated sport centres. The push that UF received in the youth sector is due to Franceschetti, since it was he, as president of the Italian Flying Disc Federation (FIFD), who wanted the creation of the first Junior Under 20 and Under 17 championships.

Furthermore, with one of his students first and then with his colleague Davide Morri, professor Franceschetti deserves credit for having introduced the UF in the school sector. In fact, a long-term development plan was put in place both in secondary schools and colleges, which took the UF to be included in the student championships for the city and the province of Bologna.

Continuous commitment and refresher courses have made possible for Ultimate Frisbee to be introduced to PE teachers in the area; thanks to Andrea Sassoli's vision (he is Coordinator of Physical Education Emilia Romagna) and despite not being yet considered a sport, UF was included in the student championships as a pilot activity. The Bologna model was exported to all the provinces of the Emilia Romagna region, and subsequently became the stimulus and the benchmark for sport clubs in other regions to promote this sport by networking with schools. The reasons that explain the massive participation by schools can be ascribed to its "educational and innovative" features i.e. multisport, self-regulation, uncontaminated sport with mixed teams, self-refereeing, fair play, ease of execution.

Professor Franceschetti had the brilliant idea of linking the great success that Ultimate Frisbee was having with its gigantic tournaments between schools to an institutional relationship with the Faculty of Motor Sciences of Bologna University. He thus proposed to include Flying Disc among the optional sports available in the third year of the degree course, thus creating an official position for this sport also at university level. The professor has always supported and encouraged students and athletes to attend training and refresher courses so as to pass on his desire to have fun and play sports to future generations.

### EDUCATIONAL QUALITY OF ULTIMATE FRISBEE

- It forces players to cooperate; in fact, the player who is holding the frisbee cannot do anything without the help of his teammates, who must "free themselves" from marking to receive the disc
- Since there is no contact, it allows to overcome any disparity (sex, physical prowess)
- The absence of a referee puts the players in a position to take their own responsibility

-Each tournament ends with the prize for the team that has best interpreted the "Spirit of the Game"

### **SOME FIGURES on FIFD**

There are over 3,000 members in Italy, with 12 national teams in the various Ultimate Frisbee categories, quite successful in international events.

For years, FIFD, in collaboration with affiliated associations and sport training centres, has been promoting Flying Disc in Italian schools by training PE teachers and through educational projects in secondary and high schools. The last great success saw the participation, in Bologna, of 2,500 students from 120 classes and 21 different schools. In addition, the Federal coaches trained by CONI's School of Sports may teach Frisbee in sporting and entertainment events around Italy (and beyond) to anyone who is interested.

Flying Disc has also become very popular in universities. After a pilot partnership between CUS Bologna and FIFD in Emilia Romagna, a memorandum of understanding has now been entered to promote this sport in some Italian universities. The project provides for the training of university instructors who can then promote courses to be held in the various offices of Centro Sportivo Universitario Italiano.

Eighty-eight nations around the world have joined the World Flying Disk Federation (WFDF).

The largest number of practitioners are in the US: more than five million.

Looking at the number of practitioners versus the technical results, Italy is overall the best country ever, having played in world finals and having won the Juniors championship.

### **HISTORY OF THE DISC**

Flat circular objects, similar to the Frisbee, are found in ancient documents, with the discus throwers of Ancient

Greece as a prime example. Wooden plates, followed by tin and rigid plastic discs or, more recently, by the lids of washing-up powder containers, have always been a source of fun for the young.

The origin of the name dates back to the second half of the 1800s, after the name of a company in Connecticut (the pastry Frisbie Pie Co.) which supplied pies for school canteens, whose circular tin pans were reused for the entertainment of New England students.

Born from the imagination of two WWII veterans, Warren Franscioni and Walter Morrison, the famous "flying saucer" was the result of repeated attempts to obtain a perfectly aerodynamic plastic disc.

Working in Franscioni's garage, the two partners were able to develop a rounded edge that would guarantee maximum elevation in flight and easy grip. Franscioni and Morrison called their 1948 creation "Flying Disc". The first plastic Frisbees were produced after World War II (the first industrial production of a disc dates back to 23 January 1957 with the name Pluto Platter), subsequently adding the name Frisbee taken from that of the aforementioned company.

In the sixties it became a popular sport with official leagues. The first Frisbee throwing record is attributed to Simon Lizotte, for a throwing distance of 263.2 meters.

### **ULTIMATE FRISBEE**

David Leiwant, a Columbia University student, stood in the school parking lot watching the younger players throw, run and catch the puck (frisbee) under the stars on a summer night. "If I squint my eyes, it's almost like 25 years ago," said 42-year-old Leiwant, 1973 alumni. "We were just a bunch of kids hanging around with a Frisbee." The students wrote the rules of Frisbee taking inspiration from other sports, ultimately creating the fastest moving team sport we know today.



# Districts: A strategic pivot to create widespread synergies

At the end of the last meeting of the District Presidents, held in Rapallo during the celebration of its 70th jubilee, a final document was approved, which contained an analysis of the various points discussed.

The tight schedule and the need to be concise have left some space for more in-depth analysis, especially considering that this document was targeted to those members and executives at all levels who could not attend the meeting and therefore were running the risk of not being duly updated.

We have, therefore, asked the district presidents some questions about the hottest or most innovative points they had discussed, such as the relationships amongst districts, clubs, areas and the International Presidency. We also asked about their proposal to set up a district ethics commission and the need to have solid relations with the civil and sport associations of the various regions.

Here follow some of the replies from the Presidents we contacted:

**PAUL STANDAERT**  
*President of District Belgium*

4. The district presidents encourage P.I. to continue and further develop contacts with the IOC and the National Olympic Committees. The Representation of P.I. in Lausanne is available to support the Secretary General and P.I. in this matter. As such, the operation of the Representations is a good example of what can be done. Members that are active in the NOC of their country could act as local spokespersons for Panathlon International within their NOC, and aim at regular collaboration with the NOC at national level.

5. The world is changing and so are the organizations. In Europe, the path towards the expansion of Panathlon International has been successful in creating new clubs, and later a district. In continents such as Africa and Asia this path should be reversed because the local regulations would not help us create new clubs. They would rather support the creation of a first 'national' club (district likewise), to be followed by the creation of other clubs.

6. All large organization (like P.I.) are confronted with difficulties in safeguarding ethical behaviour at management level. Also, our districts may sometimes be confronted with disputable behavior. They need guidance and advice on these topics.

To help our Districts evaluate specific (local/national) situations, they should be able to rely on the judgment of a neutral and independent advisory board at P.I. Level.

**BERNHARD SEGESSER**  
*President of District Switzerland*

I agree with Paul's words and I think we should move into that direction; as regards point 6, I think it is important for PI to set up an Ethics Committee. Disputes within the clubs require a point of contact that currently does not exist at district level.

**GIORGIO COSTA**  
*President of District Italy*

4) Each District must promote contacts with the civic and sport institutions of its region and foster the development of relations between us and the bodies in charge, so as to work in synergy with them to achieve P.I. objectives, i.e. : rules, fair play, social inclusion, solidarity, ethical and cultural values of sport. By pooling these contacts from all the Districts and local offices, our international headquarters in Rapallo can make Panathlon and its values better known around the world.

5) I agree because each area has its own peculiar behavior; this requires flexibility in understanding others and being united towards a shared goal.

6) I agree with Bernhard and, linking my answer to point 5, I think it advisable to set up a District Ethics Committee ready to help pan-athletes or clubs whenever they need it.



## District Presidents' Committee Rapallo 28-29 October 2021 Final Document

The District Presidents, both in presence and in video conference, indicated in the President of District Switzerland, Bernhard Segesser, the delegate to take the floor and to list the points and proposals, to be submitted to the President and to the International Board.

Before listing their proposals, the Presidents thanked the International President, the General Secretary and the General Secretariat for all the work done and for organising this meeting:

**1. Communication has improved considerably; we have improved our way of conversing;**

**2. The individual Presidents detailed both the pandemic and project situation, including an update on Club payments:**

**3. The high age of members in the Clubs was pointed out, the need to introduce young members to breathe new life into the movement was considered a priority;**

**4. It is necessary to increase contacts with the IOC, with the European Union and other International Organisations (UN), and with organisations at national level;**

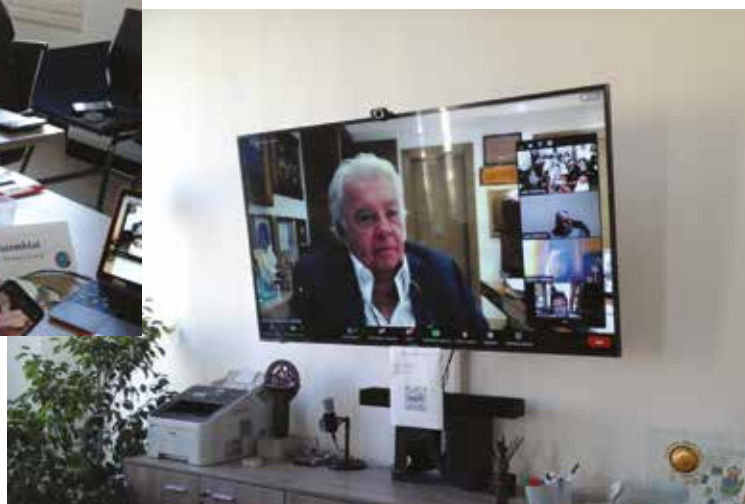
**5. It is essential to have more flexibility in interpersonal relations and to understand more deeply the cultural aspects of each territory;**

**6. Ethics, Fair Play and integration are objectives of great importance, it is necessary to set up an Ethics Commission to give advice and help to clubs on how to act;**

**7. The Presidents underline the necessity and the obligation to honour the payment of the dues in order to be able to properly use the panathletic structure;**

**8. The Presidents unanimously have resolved the possibility of being re-elected once again to the position they currently hold.**

At the end of the meeting the Presidents unanimously agreed on the drawing up of these minutes, hoping to meet again as soon as possible to complete the work done until now, and to progress with other projects of great value in favour of the principles and philosophy of life of Panathlon International.



# Training under Erasmus + to become good managers

## *Outlining the foundations of new sport governance to forge a new leadership inspired by ethical values*

On 8 December, the concluding high-level event of the GReFORM project (ERASMUS+) took place. The venue for the day was the prestigious Thon EU Hotel in the heart of Brussels, capital of Europe.

Patrick Van Campenhout, Conseiller International represented Panathlon International.

Everyone was welcomed by Floor Van Houdt, Head of EU Sport Unit, who wishes to further promote good governance throughout Europe. The theoretical part was presented by Doctor Professor Anagnostopoulos and Mr. Koutsoundas both from UCLan Cyprus University and the Cyprus Sports Organisation respectively.

In addition to the digital platform, an e-book was also designed with the cooperation of Doctor Professor Geeraert of the Universities of KU Leuven and Utrecht. The event was closed by Mr. Yves Le Lostecque- Head of Erasmus Mundus & Sport Unit (EACEA). He stressed the importance of this project and the further promotion of "Good Governance" in sport organisations.

He also outlined the EU vision on the Sport budget for 2022 with a sum of 470 million euro which is almost doubled compared to the 2021 budget with the sum of 265 million euro. This proves that SPORT is taken seriously in the European Parliament. In 2014 the 1st Erasmus + projects were launched for the period 2014-2020, the 2nd generation will run from 2021 -2027.

The focus of the EU for the period 2021-2027 will be on 8 priorities, with specific 4 priorities for Sport:

### SPORT:

- Encouraging the participation in sport and physical activity
- Promoting integrity and values in sport
- Promoting education in and through sport
- Combating violence and tackling racism, discrimination and intolerance in sport

### GENERAL:

- Inclusion and diversity
- Environment and fight against climate change

- Addressing digital transformation through development of digital readiness, resilience and capacity
  - Common values, civic engagement and participation
- After the closing of this event there was a very interesting network timeslot followed by a very nice lunch.

Hereby all the partners involved in this Erasmus+ project: Cyprus Sport Organisation, CEDAR, University of PATRAS, University of LEUVEN, Mykolas Romeris University, Univesita Degli Studi Di Palermo, ISTS, Federazione Italiano Gioco Handball, EOSE, EASM.



*Patrick Van Campenhout, Conseiller International represented Panathlon International with Dr. Geeraert from the University of Leuven*

# The Erasmus + project against match-fixing

## *The initiative of our Lausanne and Brussels offices has led to surprising results*

The closing event of the Erasmus + EPOSM project (Evidence-based Prevention Of Sporting-related Match-fixing) took place in Lausanne, coordinated by the University of Ghent, in Belgium.

Panathlon International, partner of the project (developed by P.I. Representation in Belgium), organized a meeting with the cooperation of P.I. Representation in Lausanne.

The discussion panel, moderated by Vangelis Alexandrakis (IOC), took place at Maison du Sport, and was followed by a conference at Lausanne University (UNIL) to present the data gathered in Belgium, Croatia, France, the Netherlands, Austria, Switzerland and the United Kingdom about the different types of match-fixing.

People from the world of sport across the board took part in an online survey that focussed on current and former athletes, coaches, board members, referees, and others involved in a variety of sports (including football, tennis, basketball, hockey, handball, and cricket) and answered questions, completely anonymously, about match-fixing.

The resulting data was very interesting and engaged partners from all over Europe, representatives of international and sport associations (UEFA), as well as some Ministers of Sport, in a very exciting debate. This event allowed Panathlon International to emphasize how important its activity is, not only in supporting ethical behaviour in educating the younger generations but also in preventing match-fixing.

## A REFORM 20 YEARS IN THE MAKING

# A historic turning point in Italy: “Paralympic” athletes in military teams

An important sport and social reform involving Paralympic athletes has just been adopted in Italy: from this year, the military sport groups will be allowed to reserve places in their teams and professional ranks for athletes of both sexes, who will thus be able to give their best in their competitive careers and who, subsequently, will gain a profession for the rest of their lives.

Luca Pancalli, President of the Italian Paralympic Committee, commented on the event as follows:

***“It was with great emotion and satisfaction that I learned of the publication by Guardia di Finanza of the competition notice that will allow several Paralympic athletes to join the Fiamme Gialle Sporting Group. This is the first step on a journey that will immediately allow Paralympic athletes to enter the Military and State Corps Sport Groups. This is a momentous turning point for Italian Paralympic community and for our society, thanks to the Reform approved in 2021. It is an achievement that represents an important leap forward from a social and cultural point of view, and which enables Italy to be on an equal footing with other forward-thinking countries with regards to civil rights”.***

Pancalli recalled that this opening has come after twenty years of waiting and contacts between sport, military and political organizations:

***“The admission of Paralympic athletes into the Military and State Corps groups has always been one of the most important objectives for our movement. A great many representatives from national institutions have spent years of hard work to achieve this goal, and I wish to express my most heartfelt thanks to them. Special thanks also go to the Commander-in-Chief of the Guardia di Finanza and to all those who have worked to draft this important legislation. In the coming months, the competition notices of the other Corps will be published. Another barrier is, therefore, broken down.***

Pancalli added: ***“This will benefit not only the many disabled girls and boys who will be allowed to invest in their dreams and passion for sport, but also society at large which may now invest in the principles of inclusion and equal opportunities”.***





# Sport is taboo in Afghanistan, especially for women

From the online newsletter of Club Cremona, this interesting article by editor Andrea Sozzi

According to some sources, Afghan volleyball player Mahjabin Hakimi might have been beheaded by the ferocious Taliban regime, due to her Hazara ethnicity and for playing without wearing a hijab. The news, denied by a reporter from Aamaj News, who gives another version, would later be confirmed by another volleyball player, who arrived in Italy thanks to Mauro Berruto's efforts (former men's volleyball coach in Italy between 2010 and 2015).

It is not up to us to establish the truthfulness of this news; what is certain is that the situation of women in Afghanistan, and in many other parts of the world, is one of suffering and denied rights.



Sport is a tool for social emancipation and a powerful antidote to gender-based violence, and for this reason women's sport is seen as a threat by dictatorships. Women like Friha Rezayee, the first Afghan athlete to participate in the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens, are fighting for the women's empowerment also through sport.

On her return from the Olympic Games, Friha, a judoka in the 70 kg category, found much hostility in Afghanistan, due to media exposure. After numerous death threats, she moved to Vancouver, where she founded the Women Leaders of Tomorrow association, which aims to empower Afghan women through education and sports. In the weeks following the fall of the government, Friha worked intensively, together with international institutions, to rescue Afghan sports women, while also expressing strong concerns about the situation in her country.

Even if it does not seem much, what we can do is to talk tirelessly about these stories, and to keep the public opinion updated on this issue.

## DISTRICT SWITZERLAND

# Panathlon International working group established in Lausanne

The working group of Panathlon International Representation in Lausanne was set up at P.I. office, at Maison du Sport, where it also held its first meeting.

The Group (as per IB decision) is currently comprised of Pierre Zappelli, P.I. President; Simona Callo, P.I. General Secretary; Bernhard Segesser, President of the CH-FL District; Philippe Cottet, President of Club Lausanne; the Secretary of the World Archery Federation (absent from this meeting), and Melody Exhenry, Secretary of the Representation.

Also in attendance were Patrick Van Camphenout, International Board Member; Paul Stendaert, president of District Belgium, and Professor Yves Vanden Aweele, former member of P.I. Culture Commission, all of whom were in Lausanne in the framework of EPOSM project. Thus they had the opportunity to share their experience on the activity carried out by P.I. Representation in Belgium. Also present was Peter Wüthrich, member of the CH + FL District Board.

Among the various ideas debated, it was decided to develop a tool, to be distributed to the clubs, to facilitate their action in schools and to promote our values among children and teenagers, thus contributing to their sport education. Another project was discussed, one centred on the setting up of an "ethics commission", as also suggested by the District President Committee in their final document; this commission could become a point of reference, and not only for Panathlon International.

On this basis, the working group scheduled their next meeting during which they will also discuss the date for the official inauguration of P.I. Representation in Lausanne.



# Meo Sacchetti, Sportsman of the year

## The literary prize goes to “Forza gentile”

During the Christmas dinner held at Hotel Melia in Milan, Panathlon Club Milano awarded the Sportsman of the Year 2021 prize to the coach of the Italian National Basketball Team.

The award ceremony took place following the awarding of the first Sandro Ciotti Prize; the former Sassari coach joined the evening after attending the Forum party dedicated to Sandro Gamba. Romeo Sacchetti (known as Meo) received the award from Simona Vittoriana Cassarà, member of the Board of Directors of Sport e Salute, then lent himself to a long interview made by the club's president, Filippo Grassia.

For Sacchetti and for Italian basketball, 2021 was an important year with the return to the Olympic Games after a 17 years spell and reaching the quarterfinals. On the occasion of the award, the wish from Panathlon Club Milano is that Sacchetti continues to gather positive results both at Euro 2022 and in the World Cup qualifiers. The same Milanese Christmas convivial dinner also hosted the vote-counting for the first “Sandro Ciotti” Sports Literature Award, created by the Panathlon Club Milano in cooperation with COOP Lombardia.

During the meeting of the 25th November, after the sealed envelopes were opened by 18 jurors, the notary announced that the winner was Andriy Shevchenko who, in collaboration with journalist Alessandro Alciato, wrote “Forza gentile” (Gentle strength). This is his own story starting as a child, born and raised in Soviet-ruled Ukraine, who went on to conquer Europe and the world during an exciting career that saw him become a symbol of AC Milan. With 52 votes, the book, published by Baldini+Castoldi, received 6 more votes than “Ma rimaniamo con i piedi per terra”, written by Andrea Masciaga and published by Rizzoli.

In this novel, the author – who, by the way, keeps Panini's Shevchenko sticker in his wallet - tells the story of a third-rate team that is experiencing an extraordinary season with unprecedented results. In 3rd place, with 28 votes, was the book by veteran radio journalist Ezio Luzzi, published by Baldini+Castoldi, “Tutto il mio calcio, minuto per minuto”, in which he recounts his long career. This book tells the story of the radio program that was the constant companion of football fans for decades, in times when all matches were played on a Sunday afternoon and the guys used to stroll down the street holding their girlfriend in one hand and a small battery-operated radio in the other, waiting to hear the portentous announcement of a goal scored.

CLUB BUENOS AIRES

## Tribute to Eva Szabo

### exemplary pan-athlete

Eva Szabo, renowned Panathlon International officer and brilliant shooter at Federation level, in the column “Dreams of Glory” of the program “Mesa Deportiva”, emphasized the importance of teaching proper values in sport education of children, young people and adolescents.

Eva reflected on the fundamental role of the family, especially when it comes to accompanying the younger generation in a spirit of respect and fraternity. She took the opportunity to recall her time spent in the District and her willingness to return, when called back, to continue sharing the values and principles of sport.



# Thousands of hits on “Panathlon Planet”

by Massimo Rosa  
D.I. Communication Director

In 2022, PANATHLON PLANET reaches its third year of activity as the House Organ of Panathlon District Italy: it's an on-the-ground promotion, from the regional to the national level. Perhaps not everyone knows that this media platform was created for internal information aimed at panathletes but, above all, to attract the attention to those who surf the Internet, hoping to gain followers for Panathlon International and its ethical and cultural principles of sport.

So far, three thousand articles have been published, the result of a mega editorial team effort of forty-three journalists, who operate from Trieste to Sicily, that is to say, from all over the country.

Our readers, whom we thank for their loyalty and on-going attention, have up to now read 171,000 articles (as of January 14, 2022). The activity of our first year was limited to the last two months of 2019; taking this as our year “zero”, we did record 3,433 articles read, a significant and promising number.

In order not to start with a penalty, part of the existing journalistic archives were migrated, within Panathlon Planet, from Area 1 to District Italy. Our readers, from the beginning, discovered us in part through Facebook; to date, we have reached 45,284 visitors. Afterwards, Panathlon Planet entered the search engines family; as of 15th January 2022, we counted 60,343 clicks, the lion's share belonging to Google, with 56,521.

From 3,433 articles read in the first short year of activity, we jumped, in 2020, to 68,210, then reached 96,135 by 31st December 2021, a 27% growth in the last third year. To add a few more figures, we would like to emphasize that if in 2019 the articles read monthly were 1,716 (in just 2 months of activity) and in 2020 they climbed to 5,684, reaching 8,011 in 2021.

The most read article ever is “Berlin Olympiastadion 4th August 1936, Lutz Long and Jesse Owens friends forever”. The one most viewed in one day is “Will he be famous? Giovanni Sanna at the helm of Olbia Football Under 17 team”.

Among the jewels of our online magazine, it is worth mentioning the partnership agreement between USSI (Italian Sports Press Union) and Panathlon District Italy, which resulted in the project “Io parlo e scrivo in italiano” (i.e. “I speak and write in Italian”), an invitation to use our beautiful language more extensively and a plea presented at Mantua Literature Festival in order to stem that sort of linguistic xenophilia which is too often misused.

Last, but not least, let me mention the column “Will they be famous?”, a journalistic support of athletes or sport personalities who are unknown today, but who knows... tomorrow...??

DISTRICT ITALY / CLUB COMO

## Getting involved in big events is better than promoting them

### *Panathlon on display in the historic 115th Giro di Lombardia*

The best opportunity to make Panathlon International, its aims, values and history known is certainly to take part in sporting and cultural events, and all PI clubs have always pursued this strategy, at all levels.

Club Como has certainly made a grand entrance by launching into a more direct form of participation, and even joining the organizers of a very classic cycling race such as the traditional **Giro di Lombardia**, now in its 115th edition. The Giro di Lombardia is the traditional closing event of the international cycling season and does, therefore, attract large media coverage.

The step taken by Club Como is destined to set the precedent, considering the success of its exposure and the great dignity recognised to our movement by the sponsors and organizers of high-level cycling. President Edoardo Ceriani was, in fact, a member of the Honorary Committee, together with other representatives of regional, sports and political authorities. Special thanks went to member Paolo Frigerio, to Centro Cantù and to Canturino Cycling Club 1902 asd, the forerunners of the decision to involve Como Club also in this edition.



# Presented in Rome a new Junior Club

## *The largest Junior Club in the world is born in Rome*

by Lorenzo D'Ilario

Following the official recognition of Panathlon International, the presentation ceremony of Panathlon Club Junior Roma took place in the prestigious CONI Great Hall. In attendance were: Giorgio Costa, president of District Italy, Luigi Sagrestani, governor of Area 14 Lazio, and Giampiero Cantarini, president of Panathlon Club Roma.

***"We are honoured to be officially presented in the home of Italian sport. This ceremony is a great starting point, a seal of trust and encouragement that will accompany and encourage us to always give our best. From now on, however, our business card will consist only of the activities that we will be able to put into practice. We already have many initiatives in the pipeline and are looking forward to putting them into practice. We are convinced that we will win this challenge because, as young people, we will be able to find the right words and contents to be both witnesses and promoters of sport values among our peers".***

With these words, Lorenzo D'Ilario, president of Panathlon Junior Club Roma - joined on stage by Vice-president Noemi di Pinti, Deputy Vice-president Francesco Cacioppi, and Club Secretary Carlo Ricchi - shared his enthusiasm with the members of the sponsor Club and the many guests.

Among those in attendance were Alessandro Onorato, Rome city councillor for sport, and Riccardo Viola, CONI Lazio president, both of whom expressed their closeness to the new Club, as well as Pierre Zappelli, president of Panathlon International. Giovanni Malagò, president of CONI, sent a congratulatory video message.

As president Zappelli pointed out: ***"Panathlon International has always paid particular attention to sport education and training of young people. It is no coincidence that the welcome kits to our Junior members include the Panathlon Declaration on Ethics in Youth Sport and the Charter of the Duties of Parents in Sport, two valuable tools for their commitment as young pan-athletes. I had the opportunity to personally meet president D'Ilario, whom I found deeply motivated, and I'm sure that, with the support of the sponsor Club, our Junior members will be able to take up the baton and contribute with passion to promoting our ideals".*** Zappelli also thanked Panathlon Club Roma for encouraging the establishment of a youth club in the capital city, which, with 34 members, 10 of whom are women, is already the largest Junior Club in the world.



In attendance at the starting line were President Edoardo Ceriani, vice-presidents Sergio Sala and Giuseppe Ceresa, the sports doctor Claudio Pecci MD, many Pan-athletes and the management of Cento Cantù, led by Paolo Frigerio.

The Panathlon logo was prominently featured in the official poster. On display, at various points of the race, many banners with the logo of Panathlon Club Como and, along the city route, the banner celebrating the 70th anniversary of Panathlon International.

This type of promoting Panathlon International reflects to the old adage: "If the mountain will not come to Muhammad, then Muhammad must go to the mountain". As a matter of fact, as it is often difficult to involve sports operators in events promoted by Panathlon International, just as it is difficult to attract large crowds to Club events, then we put things in reverse order and it will be up to the Clubs to join, with direct operational involvement, events already established and full of appeal. In this way, among other things, the costs and efforts will certainly be lower.

This strategy may recall the Trojan horse, although with constructive rather than destructive purposes.



## Thanks to Claudio Bertieri, director for 22 years

Claudio Bertieri, journalist, editor of this magazine for 22 years, from 1992 to 2014, reached his last finish line. He was 96 years old.

His relationship with sport was a genuine and passionate one, as well as that with cinema, of which he was, for decades, a worldwide renown inspiration and critic. Born in Genoa, his character was one of frankness and practicality, combined with a pinch of vocation to the critical thinking that made his fortune as a film journalist.

Professor Ferdinando Fasce thus remembered him:

***"Cultured, refined and extremely erudite, Bertieri hated any form of flaunting and presumptuousness. He preferred doing things rather than talking about them, whether it was a cinema show, an essay on his beloved comics, a newspaper article on any medium, which he mastered with great ease, since he had become proficient at them all".***

He was introduced to sport by his father, a company manager with a passion for various disciplines and manager of Società Ginnastica Ligure "Cristoforo Colombo" and of Genoa Cricket and Football Club.

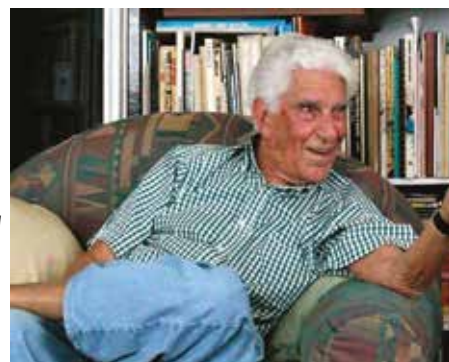
Dealing with and writing about different worlds was for him a very attractive exercise. To those who asked him how he managed to deal with such diverse themes with such skill, he replied: ***"I always mix things ... There must***

***always be an intertwining of languages, if you want a cross-breed".***

In 2012, at the beginning of my term as International President, I met him to plan the activity of the magazine, which was then quarterly. He greeted me with a smile and a sense of relief: "Well, since a fellow journalist president has arrived, it's time for me to step aside". My insistence for him to continue as long as he wanted was of no avail.

At that time he was 87 and, after 25 years of commitment as editor-in-chief, I had the impression that he had been waiting for the moment to step down from this perhaps more technical than cultural position. And culture was, up to his last moments, his most important field of operation because it allowed him to feed his passion for research and to keep his critical thinking alive.

The whole Panathlon International family owes him a great debt of gratitude and shares the great sadness of all those who loved and valued him.



## Goodbye Roberto Peretti, citizen of the world

Roberto Peretti, who held the position of Panathlon International General Secretary from 1992 to 1997, passed away, greatly missed by his family and all the panathletes who knew and respected him. Born in 1932 and member of Panathlon since 1987, he held various positions within his Club, and dedicated his life to sport and volunteering. General Secretary Simona Callo attended his funeral on behalf of Panathlon International. Together with the members of the Secretariat staff, she remembers him with the following words:

**Dear Roberto,**

***I wish to thank you, on behalf of the staff of the General Secretariat who have had the pleasure of sharing five years of work with you. We met you in 1992, and the time we spent with you was very special. We can't help but smile as we look back at those years and how you have always dealt with us. Not just the "boss" but also a friend. You had your own ideas, that you pursued with determination and stubbornness, and these traits caused you, at times, to clash with others, but your heart was big, same as your open-mindedness. How many times have we heard you say: "...dear friends, I am a citizen of the world!"***

***This, in a nutshell, is your whole essence.***

***You were a real citizen of the world: interested in and curious about other cultures, generous in your relationships and available to everyone. Passionate about sport, nature, travels, and strongly committed to volunteering, in which you were completely involved, actively and tirelessly, and for which you "rolled up your sleeves". We all have something to thank you for.***

***Thank you for your simplicity and helpfulness, for the camper van you lent us, for opening your house to us, for your friendship, for always being there when we most needed it, for the sweets you brought us every morning, for your irony and for your "deep lightness".***

***Now that you are gone, we and Panathlon International have lost a friend and a big help, but your memory will live on, in our anecdotes of you and in remembering the many bonding moments we shared.***

***Every time we will see a camper van passing by, we will think of you and of Rosamaria, a tireless, caring, loving presence, always by your side.***



## Spirit and Ideals

The Foundation was established in memory of Domenico Chiesa, on the initiative of his heirs Antonio, Italo and Maria. In 1951, Domenico Chiesa had been not just a promoter of the first Panathlon Club but had also drawn up its draft statute and, in 1960, he was one of the founders of Panathlon International. Although not technically binding for his heirs, Chiesa had expressed, in life, the desire to allocate a share of his assets to the regular assignment of prizes for artistic works inspired by sport, as well as for cultural initiatives and publications sharing the same objectives as Panathlon International.

In the constitution of the Foundation, alongside the substantial contribution of Chiesa's heirs, one should also remember the generous input of the entire panathletic movement through its numerous clubs and the personal intervention of many panathletes, that managed to offer the Foundation the necessary conditions to make its debut in the world of visual arts in a prestigious and striking way: the establishment of an award implemented in association with one of the leading organizations in the world, La Biennale di Venezia.

## Domenico Chiesa Award

On 24 September 2004, the Board of Panathlon International, considering the need to increase the capital of the Foundation and to honour the memory of one of Panathlon's founding members, first benefactor and inspiration for the same, established the "Domenico Chiesa Award" to be assigned, on the proposal of the individual clubs and on the basis of specific regulations, to one or more panathletes or non-member personalities who have lived the panathletic spirit.

In particular, the award is for those who are committed to the promotion of the sporting ideal and who have made an exceptionally significant contribution of the following:



***Understanding and promoting the values of Panathlon and of the Foundation  
through cultural tools inspired by sport;***

***For members: to those who have made an exceptional contribution to the concept of friendship  
between all panathletes and those who work in the world of sport, thanks also to the diligence and quality  
of their participation in Panathlon activities;***

***For non-members: to those who have made an exceptional contribution  
to the concept of friendship between all sports components, recognizing panathletic ideals  
as a primary value in the educational training of young people.***

***Being available to help, thanks to the activity performed in favour of the Club  
and to the generosity towards the Club or the world of sport.***

Chiesa Italo - P.C. Venezia 20/10/2004	Gaio Camporesi offerto Enrico Prandi 21/11/2009	Mara Pagella P.C. Pavia 18/02/2016
Chiaruttini Paolo - P.C.Venezia 16/12/2004	Mons.Mazza - P.C.Parma 15/12/2009	Giancaspro Antonio P.C. Molfetta 26/11/2016
Pizzetti Martino - P.C.Parma 15/12/2004	Mario Macalli - P.C.Crema 22/12/2009	Oreste Perri Area 02 26/11/2016
Chiesa Italo offerto Enrico Prandi 20/10/2004	Livio Berruti - Area 3 19/11/2010	Gianduia Giuseppe P.C. La Malpensa 13/12/2016
Battistella Bruno P.C.Vittorio Veneto 27/05/2005	Gianni Marchiol - P.C.Udine N.T. 11/12/2010	Giovannni Ghezzi P.C. Crema 14/12/2016
Ferdinandi Pierlugi P.C.Latina 12/12/2005	Mario Mangiarotti - P.C.Bergamo 16/12/2010	Roberto Peretti P.C. Genova levante 26/01/2017
Mariotti Gelasio P.C.Vald.Inf 19/02/2006	Mario Sogno P.C.Biella 24/09/2011	Magi Carlo Alberto Distretto Ita 31/03/2017
Prando Sergio P.C.Venezia 12/06/2006	Mariuccia Lombardini - P.C.Reggio E. 19/11/2011	Mantegazza Geo PC Lugano 20/04/2017
Zichi Massimo P.C.Latina 06/11/2006	Bernardino Morsani - P.C.Rieti 25/11/2011	Palmieri Caterina PC Varese 16/05/2017
Yves Vaan Auweele P.C.Brussel 21/11/2006	Roberto Ghiretti - P.C.Parma 15/12/2011	Paul De Broe PC Brussels 28/01/2018
Viscardo Brunelli P.C.Crema 01/12/2006	Fondazione Lanza P.C.Udine N.T. 17/12/2011	Vic De Donder PC Brussels 28/01/2018
Giampaolo Dallara P.C. Parma 06/12/2006	Giuseppe Molteni - P.C. Varese 17/04/2012	Buzzella Mario PC Crema 28/02/2018
Fabio Presca I Distretto 15/02/2007	Enrico Prandi Area 5 11/12/2012	Balzarini Adriana Distretto Italia 16/06/2018
Giulio Giuliani P.C. Brescia 12/06/2007	Sergio Allegrini - P.C.Udine N.T. 17/12/2012	Guccione Alù Gabriele PC Palermo 09/11/2018
Avio Vailati Venturi P.C.Crema 13/06/2007	Piccolo Gruppo Evolution - Polisp. Orgnano A.D. P.C.Udine N.T. 17/12/2012	Di Pietro Giovanni PC Latina 27/10/2018
Luciano Canavese P.C. Crema 13/06/2007	Don Davide Larice P.C.Udine N.T. 17/12/2012	Speroni Carlo PC La Malpensa 13/11/2018
Sergio Fabrizi P.C.La Malpensa 19/09/2007	Maurizio Monego Area 1 31/10/2013	Dainese Giorgio Area 05 26/10/2019
Cesare Vago P.C. La Malpensa 19/09/2007	Henrique Nicolini Area 1 Area 2 31/10/2013	Bambozzi Gianni Area 05 26/10/2019
Amedeo Marelli P.C. La Malpensa 19/09/2007	Together onlus P.C. Udine NT 30/11/2013	Marini Gervasio PC Latina 9/12/2019
Fernando Petrone P.C. Latina 10/12/2007	Enzo Cainero P.C. Udine NT 30/11/2013	Pecci Claudio PC Como 12/12/2019
Vittorio Adorni P.C.Parma 16/01/2008	Giuseppenicola Tota Area 5 11/06/2014	Lucchesini Giorgio PC Altavaldelsa 16/12/2019
Dora de Biase P.C.Foggia 18/04/2008	Renata Soliani P.C. Como 12/06/2014	Facchi Gianfranco PC Crema 18/12/2019
Albino Rossi P.C.Pavia 12/06/2008	Geo Balmelli P.C. Lugano 12/06/2014	Marani Matteo PC Milano 28/01/2020
Giuseppe Zambon - P.C.Venezia 18/12/2008	Baldassare Agnelli P.C. Bergamo 30/10/2014	Ginetto Luca Venezia 21/10/2020
Maurizio Clerici - P.C.Latina 15/12/2008	Sergio Campana P.C. Bassano 09/12/2014	Porcaro Angelo Pavia 06/05/2021
Silvio Valdameri - P.C.Crema 17/12/2008	Fabiano Gerevini P.C. Crema 13/11/2015	Landi Stefano Reggio Emilia 10/05/2021
Enrico Ravasi - P.C.Varese 21/04/2009	Dionigi Dionigio Area 5 06/12/2015	Albanesi Aldo La Malpensa 25/05/2021
Attilio Bravi - P.C.Bra 25/05/2009	Bruno Grandi P.C. Forlì 22/01/2016	Dusi Ottavio Brescia 21/06/2021
Antonio Spallino - P.C.Como 30/05/2009		Beneacquistà Lucio Latina 25/09/2021
		Muzio Ugo Biella 23/10/2021





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29

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