



PRESS RELEASE

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When the United Nations recognised the importance of Fair Play in Sport

By establishing the **19th May as International Fair Play Day**, the United Nations unequivocally recognises the global importance and the profoundly humanistic nature of this attitude in sport (the world's largest organised 'community'), which should be the very essence of civilised relations, contributing to the creation of a fairer and more inclusive society.

Historically, the promotion of Fair Play has been supported by important international institutions such as the International Fair Play Committee (IFCP), Panathlon International (PI) and the European Fair Play Movement (EFPM). However, the UN proclamation adds a strong global signal to consolidate this commitment and give new impulse to the tireless advocates of this mindset. World Fair Play Day, rooted in the work of these organisations, is now officially recognised as a worldwide day of celebration, inviting everyone to reflect and act on the meaning of a fair and respectful behaviour in sport and in everyday life.

A global opportunity to celebrate Fair Play

19 May Day will be celebrated worldwide with events and activities involving athletes, managers, coaches, trainers, referees, fans and all those involved in the world of sport.

Budapest, under the aegis of CIFP and **Olympia**, through the European Fair Play Movement in cooperation with Panathlon International, will be the focal points of this initiative, with the participation of dozens of countries and hundreds of thousands of athletes from different federations.

This day is not only an opportunity to celebrate Fair Play as a unifying and educational phenomenon, but also an occasion to reflect on the values that sport can promote off the field: respect, solidarity, inclusion, equality, and the fight against all forms of violence and discrimination.

The genesis and objectives of the Day

On the 7th of September 2020, the first World Fair Play Day was inaugurated, thus initiating a worldwide partnership between Panathlon International (established in 1951 with the mission to spread the values of Fair Play also through the action on the territories of its clubs, who are active in four continents), the International Fair Play Committee, the European Fair Play Movement and the Panathlon Club Wallonie-Bruxelles.

All those involved in sport, both on and off the field, are invited to highlight fair play initiatives, projects and achievements each year.

The idea behind this day recognises that Fair Play can be promoted by big national initiatives as well as small, simple gestures, inviting athletes, professionals, managers, coaches, athletic trainers, referees, parents, fans and all those who gravitate around the world of sport to participate in the campaign, to take concrete action on the field and to demonstrate exemplary behaviour in all circumstances. The aim is to make this day a true celebration of fair play in sport.

The main strategic objective of the day is to make people understand that the values of sports ethics and fair play are a fundamental component of education in sport, society and life itself.

The results of World Physical Education Day (WFPD) also contribute to the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal No. 4 (Quality Education) and Goal No. 17 (Partnership for the Goals). In line with the recommendations of the International Olympic Committee, the day contributes to the objectives of the UNESCO International Charter for Physical Education, Physical Activity and Sport and the Council of Europe's European Charter for Sport.

Why celebrate World Fair Play Day?

- Sport, when practised according to the values of fair play, contributes to developing better communities and individuals, improves education and promotes peace and harmony.
- Fair play teaches values such as respect, integrity, solidarity, tolerance, inclusion, fraternity, sharing, exchange, as well as self-control and personal development.
- Fair play has an impact on concepts and issues beyond sport, including integrity, equal opportunities, social inclusion and disability, race and gender equality.



- Fair play also opposes misconduct such as doping, manipulation of results, illegal gambling, money laundering, harassment and all forms of physical and moral violence.
- Olympic values and Olympism itself are realised through the practice of fair play. Yet, there was no 'world day' that officially recognised these benefits for society.

United Nations dedicates a day to the theme of fair play

As a result of these ongoing efforts, under the auspices of the International Fair Play Committee, supported by its partners Panathlon International and the European Fair Play Movement, the United Nations has proclaimed 19 May each year as 'World Fair Play Day' starting in 2025. The rationale for the institution is largely based on the existence and actions of CIFP, PI and EFPM.

The justifications and reasons given by the United Nations are therefore fundamental to a better understanding of the progress that has been made... and, above all, the essential obligation to do a little more, every day and all over the world, to make Fair Play the foundation of lasting human relations.

Recognising that sport, the arts and physical activity have the power to change perceptions, prejudices and behaviour, as well as inspire people; break down racial and political barriers; combat discrimination and defuse conflict as reflected in the political declaration adopted at the Nelson Mandela Peace Summit in 2018, Recognising as well that the spirit of fair play is deeply rooted in the Olympic ideal,

Welcoming the work done by the International Fair Play Committee and noting its aim to preserve and promote respect for the spirit of fair play and the values it represents in elite sport and sport for all, as well as in everyday life, in particular respect for rules, respect for the opponent and the fight against violence and doping:

- 1. Decides to proclaim 19 May as World Fair Play Day;*
 - 2. Invites all Member States, the United Nations system and, in particular, the Inclusive Social Development Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, relevant international organisations and international sports organisations regional and national sporting organisations, civil society, including non-governmental organisations and the private sector, and all other stakeholders to cooperate, observe and raise awareness of World Fair Play Day to promote the practice of sport in a spirit of friendship, solidarity, tolerance and inclusion and without discrimination;*
 - 3. It commends countries that have hosted and will host major international sporting events and encourages them to ensure that such events leave a lasting legacy for world peace, sportsmanship and fair play;*
 - 4. Stresses that sport, including sport for persons with disabilities, has an important role to play in promoting peace and development, social cohesion, respect for human rights, gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, given its universal popularity;*
 - 5. Reaffirms the independence and autonomy of sport and the mission of the International Olympic Committee in leading the Olympic movement and the International Paralympic Committee in leading the Paralympic movement;*
 - 6. Emphasises that the cost of all activities that may result from the implementation of this resolution should be covered by voluntary contributions;*
- Requests the Secretary-General to bring this resolution to the attention of all Member States, the organisations of the United Nations system and other interested parties to ensure proper compliance.*

Perpetual calendar for a Fair Play world, 364 ideas in support of Fair Play

The three institutions CIFP, Panathlon International and the European Fair Play Movement are jointly committed to launching, starting today, a wide-ranging awareness-raising campaign in their respective spheres in the world of sport in order to leave a lasting mark and, modestly but determinedly, change the course of events.

To give the entire world sports movement the opportunity to make an original contribution to this day, the three partner institutions, on the initiative of Panathlon Wallonie-Brussels, created a "*Perpetual Calendar for a Fair Play World*" (<https://worldfairplayday.org/the-perpetual-calendar/>), which collects 364 good ideas in support of Fair Play and, consequently, of society as a whole.

Press contacts

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