

## **The Panathlon Club Junior Roma joins the fight against bullying**

### **President Lorenzo D'Ilario as a guest and speaker of the conference "Preventing bullying through Sport"**

On Friday, April 22, the Panathlon Club Junior Rome, in the person of President Lorenzo D'Ilario as a guest and speaker, was invited at the Auditorium "Vittorio De Sica" in Sora (Frosinone) to join the conference "Preventing bullying through Sport", an interesting public debate between sports associations, clubs and institutions of the Lazio area on a very topical issue.

The initiative was part of the fifth edition of "Are you in play or offside? Ethical School", an important prevention campaign on bullying, cyberbullying, gender violence and youth problems promoted by GS Flames Gold in collaboration with the Centre for Economic and Legal Research of the University of Rome "Tor Vergata", with the aim of expanding the activities of prevention, education, training and contrast to social issues among the new generations in primary and secondary schools throughout the country.

Among the speakers, in addition to President D'Ilario, the lawyer Federico Altobelli, Provincial Delegate of Frosinone of the Lazio Regional Committee of the Italian Rugby Federation, the lawyer Paolo Iafrate, Adjunct Professor of the University of Rome "Tor Vergata", Carmelo Mandalari, Secretary General of GS Flames Gold, Massimo Sarracini, President of ASD Sora Rugby Club, Lucia Favilla, President of the UNICEF Committee of Frosinone, Francesco Fascetti, President of the Provincial Committee of Frosinone of the Sports promotion body Libertas, Dr Marilena Perciballi, psychologist of the Authority for Children and Adolescence of the Lazio Region, Dr Eleonora Grimaldi, Medical Coordinator of UCP (Primary Care Unit) and lecturer at the University of Rome "Tor Vergata", and the popular singer-songwriter Pierdavide Carone.

"There is often talk about preventing bullying through sports but almost never about preventing bullying in sports. Sport is certainly a crucial tool for promoting civic education because it educates young people to respect the rules. However, we must have the strength to condemn and repress all episodes of latent bullying that sometimes come out during the sports practice and are unfairly legitimized under false pretenses, such as goliardia, respect for hierarchies or team spirit", said Lorenzo D'Ilario, denouncing the danger of the so-called "locker-room hazing".

Then again: "Locker-room hazing is the antechamber of bullying because it is a rite of passage according to the distorted vision of those who practice it: a short-term suffering that, in the long term, will turn the victim into a trusty teammate, which in turn, when he becomes an experienced athlete, will act as an aggressor towards his peers".

"Therefore, nowadays it is more necessary than ever to promote the sports ethics and culture among athletes and sports managers - ended the president of the largest Junior Club in the world - in order to make coaches understand the importance of empower the most experienced athletes of the team, which should always be a reference point for the young athletes also from a human perspective".