

May 19 - World Fair Play Day

MANIFESTO



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The World Fair Play Day took place in Brussels since September 7, 2020. It is a sports initiative designed to promote fair play and Ethical Values in sport. Everyone in sport both on and off the pitch is invited to highlight fair play initiatives, projects and successes every year on this date.

The World Fair Play Day is coordinated by a joint worldwide partnership between Panathlon International, and the World and European Fair Play Organizations, CIFP and EFPM, inspired by Panathlon Wallonie-Bruxelles (PWB), where Fair Play Days have happened annually since 2013 in French-speaking Belgium on 7th September.

The date of 7th September was not chosen at random by Panathlon Wallonie-Bruxelles, because it was on this day in 1963 that the founding members of what was to become the International Committee for Fair Play (CIFP), met on the initiative of the French Tennis Champion Jean Borotra. The International Olympic Committee later endorsed the CIFP as champion of the values of the Olympic Charter.

At its seventy-eighth session on July 1, 2024, the General Assembly of the United Nations proclaimed May 19 World Fair Play Day, in recognition of the spirit of Fair Play rooted in the Olympic ideal. (Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 1 July 2024 [without reference to a Main Committee (A/78/L.85)] 78/310. World Fair Play Day

World Fair Play Day is marked by the official signing, by the organizing entities, of the manifesto of commitment and enlivened by local sporting activities and events.

The idea of this World Day recognizes that fair play can be promoted by large national initiatives and small simple gestures, so the International Committee for Fair Play, the Panathlon International and the European Fair Play Movement invited all athletes, practitioners, leaders, coaches, trainers, referees, parents, supporters and those around them to join the campaign and take concrete action on the ground and demonstrate exemplary behaviour in all circumstances. To make this day a true celebration of fair play in sports.

The key strategic ambition for the day is to enable the values of sports ethics and fair play to be understood as a real component of education both in sport, society and life itself.

The outcomes of the World Fair Play Day will also contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations particularly no 4 (Quality Education) and no 17 (Partnerships). In line with International Olympic Committee recommendations the day will also contribute to the aims of Unesco's International Charter of Physical Education, Physical Activity and Sport and the European Sports Charter of the Council of Europe.

Why have a World Fair Play Day?

- sport, when it is practiced with Fair Play values, helps develop better communities and individuals, improves education, and can promote peace and harmony
- Fair Play teaches values such as respect, integrity, solidarity, tolerance, inclusion, fraternity, sharing, exchange, as well as self-control and self-development
- Fair Play impacts on concepts and issues that are wider than sport including integrity, equal opportunities, social inclusion and disability, race and gender equality
- Fair Play also attacks cheating, doping, match fixing, illegal gambling, money laundering, harassment, and any forms of physical and moral violence
- The Olympic values and Olympism itself are achieved through demonstrating Fair Play



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So, building on the approach and success of the Panathlon Wallonie-Bruxelles Days of Fair Play since 2013 this World Fair Play Day aims to recognise and promote three key areas of Fair Play:

1. Practical actions and tools for Fair Play e.g. Perpetual Calendar for Fair Play (available for download at www.worldfairplayday.org)
2. A communication and media campaign through all available channels
3. Symbolic events, innovations, and celebrations i.e. “Moments for Fair Play”

All the four agencies, signatory to this manifesto below, commit to encourage and enable through their web sites, activities, members and partners promotion of these 3 areas of activity. What the four Presidents as signatories to this manifesto for the World Day of Fair Play said:

“Fair play lives through actions, not declarations. On May 19, we unite athletes, leaders, and communities worldwide to uphold integrity, inclusion, and respect—affirming sport as a powerful force for education, equality, and peace.”

Sunil Sabharwal, President of the International Fair Play Committee



“The recognition by the United Nations of a day dedicated to Fair Play provides a major impetus to all those who promote and defend the values of sport. It strengthens the sporting movement by giving a decisive place to what constitutes the Spirit of Sport: Fair Play and the values it embodies.”

Philippe Housiaux, President of the European Fair Play Movement



“Fair play is one of the core values of Panathlon International and a guiding principle for approaching sport and life with fairness, respect and responsibility. On 19 May, World Fair Play Day, we celebrate its deeper meaning and reaffirm our commitment to promoting it in every context.”

Giorgio Chinellato, President of Panathlon International



“WFPD must drive collective reflection and concrete action to embed respect, ethics, and solidarity—advancing peace, safe and high-quality sport, and making fair play a daily practice.”

Köle Gjeshaj, President of Panathlon Wallonie-Bruxelles



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In recognition of the important role that fair play has in sport and society in building sports and individual integrity, we (named below) commit our organization to the World Fair Play Day Manifesto and fully agree to engaging as an organization and through our members to:

- develop and publish appropriate policies, structures, mechanisms, activities and programs to promote Fair Play
- ensure that the knowledge and understanding of fair play increases and is contributing to the development of sports integrity
- cooperate with the founding organizations and signatory institutions to exchange best practice, to implement events and promote actions
- celebrate WFPD every May 19 with specific events as the highlight of the year reflecting the actions carried out throughout the previous year
- undertake to use and display the WFPD official logo for all campaigns, communications and promotion actions of its WFPD events according to the Style Guide

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Address :

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Name :

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Position :

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Date :

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Signature :

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