

EFPM FAIR PLAY CARD

# TOOLBOX



## PREFACE

### A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN FAIR PLAY MOVEMENT (EFPM)

Fair play is one of the main values of Olympism and a characteristic of sport in general. The EFPM, therefore, strongly supports any initiative to preserve and implement fair play attitudes and behaviour at all levels of active sport, especially amongst young people. We invite all our members to follow the recommendations of the Fair Play Card Toolbox for strengthening the spirit of sport.

**Christian Hinterberger**  
EFPM President

### A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT OF PANATHLON WALLONIE-BRUXELLES (PWB)

Fair Play values, including other important ideals such as respect, solidarity, mutual support integrity and fraternity clearly derive from our education and experience.

But physical and sporting activity, in its practice and discipline, has also always conveyed these universal values by promoting the training and development of each individual, both in their personal growth and in the construction of relationships with each other.

Let's dare to play fair!

**Philippe Housiaux**  
PWB President



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The International Fair Play Committee,  
the European Fair Play Movement  
and the Panathlon International united by Fair Play  
at the initiative of Panathlon Wallonie-Bruxelles



## WHY A FAIR PLAY CARD TOOLBOX?

The purpose of this toolbox is to provide the broadest possible audience with tools, ideas and tips to spread the Fair Play Card across sports events and activities.

Whilst the Fair Play Card initiative is easy and inexpensive to apply, and is already in use across several organizations in Europe, we thought it important to share our current knowledge and best practice. Thus we would like to encourage more organisations, sports event holders, teachers, coaches, trainers, and sports fans to adopt the Fair Play Card idea and improve the practice of fair play within sport.

At this point, let me also please say a big thank you to all EFPM member organisations who shared their best practice, from Belgium, Croatia, France, Portugal, San Marino and Slovakia, as well as our partner organisation CSIT. I would also like to thank Steve Town and the EFPM Scientific Advisory Committee for their active support in this matter.

As well as this toolbox guide the EFPM has produced a research article and several case studies on the application of the card and a suite of documents to supplement this toolbox on its web site. The research identifies positive evidence that the fair play card really acts to change behaviours. For more details see <http://www.fairplayeur.com/publications/case-studies/>

The Fair Play Card is an excellent pedagogical resource especially for young athletes to encourage them to take the right decisions – in the spirit of fair play – on and off the sports field, even if it means taking tough decisions. Instead of punishing wrong behaviour with yellow, red or black cards, why don't we embark on rewarding those taking the right decisions with Fair Play Cards?

We hope you like the Toolbox and we are looking forward to seeing Fair Play Cards spread across the sports field. Please do not hesitate sharing your experience with us, as well as photos and motivating stories.

Thank you,

**Katarina Raczova**  
EFPM EC Member



## FAIR PLAY CARD PROJECT

### PURPOSE

- The purpose of the so-called Fair Play Card (sometimes called Green Card or White Card) is to embed fair behaviour on and off the sports field deeper in athletes' behaviour and make it more visible to athletes, trainers, officials, the public and the media.

### WHAT IS IT?

- In its very basic sense, the Fair Play Card is the exact opposite of the well-known yellow, black and red cards used in sports. Instead of giving attention to negative behaviour the fair play card gives it to positive behaviour!
- It may be granted by the referee during a sports competition for exemplary behaviour or an extraordinary deed.
- The referee may award a card to athletes on the sports pitch but also to the players' bench, trainer, coach, officials or to the spectators (for example for ethical encouragement, and support for all players/ teams).

## THE ESSENTIALS

### HOW TO ADMINISTER THE FAIR PLAY CARD?

The purpose of the so-called Fair Play Card (sometimes called Green Card or White Card) is to embed fair behaviour on It is recommended that the organising committee of the sports event appoint a Fair Play Commission at the beginning of the respective event, league or competition. This Fair Play Commission can comprise for example of:

- members of the organising committee,
- a representative of the referees and officials committee,
- members of the team manager/ coaches /trainers committee,
- a representative of the host venue,
- a representative of the media,
- a representative of local fair play organisation or the European Fair Play Movement.

### WHAT CAN A NOMINATION BE FOR?

- An outstanding act or gesture of fair play during the competitions
- For acceptance of the referee's decisions and treating referees with respect
- For fair behaviour towards opponents
- Support other athletes in the spirit of fair play

*Please note that above are a selection of examples used in the past. They may be complemented, or extended with further nomination rules.*



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at the initiative of Famulien Willemse-Brussels

## THE RULES

1. A referee of a match can award an athlete, person, or team by showing the Fair Play Card during the match to the appropriate athlete, person or team. As a result, the awarded athlete, person or team receives instant public recognition for fair play behaviour.
2. After the match, the referee will fill out an «awarding paper» (nomination) which will be delivered to the Fair Play Commission. The award can also be entered on the match record sheet.
3. Out of the nominated athletes, persons, and teams the Fair Play Commission selects a winning female, male, and team for a fair play award. The winners will receive a fair play award which is handed out at the closing ceremony of the respective sports event.





## TARGET GROUP

### TARGET AGE

- Whilst the Fair Play Card can be used for any age group, it is an excellent tool especially for young athletes and children. Our research shows that it is precisely at a young age that reward, motivation and recognition can instil the right behaviour on and off the sports field.

### TARGET GROUPS

- Athletes: for extraordinary deeds during the competition, for exemplary behaviour towards the team members or opponents, for accepting referee judgment even in difficult moments...
- Players' bench: for respectful encouragement of their own team and the opponents team...
- Coaches/ teachers/ trainers: for showing exemplary behaviour and encouraging athletes to apply fairness and tolerance during competition, for supporting their own team and the opponents team...
- Officials: for behaviour respecting the athletes on the field, referee decisions, supporting the opponents...
- Fans, spectators/parents: for respectful cheering, fair and compassionate support for all athletes



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# EFPM FAIR PLAY CARD TOOLBOX

## DESIGN EXAMPLES

### CONFÉDÉRATION SPORTIVE INTERNATIONALE TRAVAILLISTE ET AMATEUR



### NATIONAL PLAN FOR ETHICS IN SPORT PORTUGAL



### KLUB FAIR PLAY SOSC





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## HOW TO ACTIVATE THE FAIR PLAY CARD FURTHER?

### CREATE VISIBILITY

To make Fair Play activities visible beyond the sports venue and to help promote fair play values in society you may want to consider the following actions (examples only - following the ideas of the Panathlon Wallonie - Bruxelles):

- Inauguration of a fair play location (street, garden, area and so on)
- Planting a fair play tree
- Animation of these areas through stands, pop-up events, travelling exhibitions

### INVOLVE MEDIA

Make sure you make the media your partner in your fair play card project so they help you spread the message further and engage more people in your activities.

- Inform the media upfront through a simple press release and engage them beforehand
- Invite representatives of the media to be part of your Fair Play Commission (see point “How to administer the fair play card”) and thus be closely involved.
- Provide the media with short stories, and anecdotes about fair play cards during the competition.
- You may invite the media to support a voting for the best fair play card story of the competition.
- Set-up a media corner for interviews and decorate it with fair play images / symbols so they appear at all instances.
- Make sure you send a final press release with the winner of the award ceremony to encourage further coverage.

### APPOINT FAIR PLAY AMBASSA-DORS

- The role of Fair Play ambassadors is to represent their fellow athletes (trainers, coaches, officials. . .). They are to play an active role in promoting the ideals of fair play at the event and beyond. They support the efforts of the fair play committee, share ideas and information.
- Fair play ambassadors can be invited to take a fair play oath at the opening/ closing of the sports event.
- You may want to equip the fair play ambassadors with Fair Play armbands to make them recognizable for all stakeholders. See example from Slovakia.



## FAIR PLAY OATH

At the opening of the competition, a representative of the athletes and/or referees (or the Fair Play Ambassador) may read a fair play oath: following the example of the Olympic Oath, the fair play oath would be taken by an athlete, on behalf of all the athletes and participants. The fair play oath may also be printed on promotional material and distributed among participants, fans, officials, etc.

Example of fair play oath for referees:

- In the name of all referees, I pledge that we will take part in this competition in the true spirit of sportsmanship, interpreting the rules with complete impartiality for the glory of sport and the honour of fair play.

Example of fair play oath for athletes:

- In the name of all competitors, I pledge that we will take part in these games in the true spirit of fair play and sportsmanship, respecting and abiding by the rules that govern them, for the glory of sport and the honour of fair play.

## FAIR PLAY FLAG

At the beginning of the competition, or at the beginning of a match, the competing teams may exchange the Fair Play Flag as a symbol of commitment to fair play principles.

Example of a fair play flag:

- I respect and play by the rules of the game, in the spirit of fair play, without doping and drugs.
- I treat my opponents in the same manner in which I want to be treated.
- I accept decisions of coaches and officials and treat them with respect.
- I help anybody in need even if by doing so I put my own result at risk.
- I serve as a positive role model on and off the sport field.
- I bear both victory and defeat with dignity.



## ORGANISE AWARD CEREMONY

- An award ceremony is an excellent event to put fair play into the spotlight. You can organise the ceremony in collaboration with the host venue, the organizing committee, or national or international organisations (such as your National Olympic Committee, EFPM, etc).
- As described above, the Fair Play Commission is to select the winner of the fair play awards based on the suggestions of the referees. The Fair Play Commission may choose one or several categories for which they award winners.
- If you do organise an award ceremony, make sure you invite the media as well.



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**SOME OF THE COUNTRIES, ORGANISATIONS ALREADY USING FAIR PLAY CARDS****KLUB FAIR PLAY SOSK (SVK)**

- **Fair Play Cards used since:** 2017
- **Age groups:** 12-16
- **Type of sports activities:** football, fencing, schools' sports in elementary and secondary schools, Kalokagatia - International Children and Youth's Olympiad, Gaudeamus Igitur - Children and Youth's Winter Olympiad
- **Who do you award with the Fair Play Card?** Athletes, coaches, parents, spectators, officials...
- **Typical reaction of referees to Fair Play Card:** Positive
- **Award ceremony organised for Fair Play Cards?** Yes, in cooperation with the Fair Play Club of the Slovak Olympic and Sports Committee
- **Further information:** The title Fair Play Team is announced as well. This title is awarded to teams in team sports, which pass through the whole competition of the current year with the most Fair play Cards. Teams receive a fair play captain's armband, which is an expression of the fact that the team is bidding for the title Fair Play Team.
- Reading the Fair Play oath by an athlete, a coach and a referee
- Display a Fair Play banner on sports fields
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gjFYN6y9hnk&list=PL83PnvsWC5nTjpAWrKeLTj2q5Bkj79UCM&index=10&t=0s>

**PANATHLON WALLONIE - BRUXELLES (BEL) FAIR PLAY CARD PROJECT**

- **Fair Play Cards used since:** 2020
- **Age groups:** Age 6 to Seniors
- **Type of sports activities:** All Sports
- **Typical reaction of referees to Fair Play Card:** Positive
- **Award ceremony organised for Fair Play Cards?** Every year
- **Further information:**
  - Award a Fair Play trophy
  - Spread out a Fair Play message from sport ambassadors
  - Display a Fair Play banner on sports fields
  - Reading the Fair Play oath by an athlete, a coach and a parent
  - The Fair Play Minute before the matches (everyone applauds)
  - Transmission of an athletics relay
  - Wearing an armband symbol of Fair Play

**CROATIAN FAIR PLAY COMMITTEE**

- **Fair Play Cards used since:** 2020
- **Age groups:** School-aged children
- **Type of sports activities:** Schools' sports in elementary and secondary schools
- **Typical reaction of referees to Fair Play Card:** Expected to be positive
- **Award ceremony organised for Fair Play Cards?** Planned in cooperation with the Croatian School Sports Federation and Olympic Solidarity Program

### SAN MARINO NATIONAL FAIR PLAY COMMITTEE

- **Fair Play Cards used since:** 2014
- **Age groups:** Athletes 10-12 yrs old
- **Type of sports activities:** Football (youth section)
- **Who do you award with the Fair Play Card?** Athletes and coaches
- **Typical reaction of referees to Fair Play Card:** Positive
- **Award ceremony organised for Fair Play Cards?** Yes in collaboration with the San Marino Fair Play Committee

### CONFÉDÉRATION SPORTIVE INTERNATIONALE TRAVAILLISTE ET AMATEUR

- **Fair Play Cards used since:** 2017
- **Age groups:** seniors
- **Type of sports activities:** CSIT World Sports Games, different sports disciplines
- **Who do you award with the Fair Play Card?** Athletes and coaches
- **Typical reaction of referees to Fair Play Card:** Positive
- **Award ceremony organised for Fair Play Cards?** Yes in collaboration with the EFPM

### MAMANET (ISR)

- **Fair Play Cards used since:** 2017
- **Age groups:** all
- **Type of sports activities:** Mamanet - Cachibol
- **Who do you award with the Fair Play Card?** Athletes, coaches, spectators
- **Typical reaction of referees to Fair Play Card:** Very positive
- **Award ceremony organised for Fair Play Cards?** Yes
- [https://www.mamanet.org.il/viewArticle\\_en.asp?id=614](https://www.mamanet.org.il/viewArticle_en.asp?id=614) see chapter 7 page 35



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## MAIN CONTACTS

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