

EFPM NEWSLETTER 1 /2016



The European Fair Play Movement (EFPM) is a European non-governmental organisation, established in 1994 in the FIFA House in Zurich. National Fair Play organisations from 40 European Countries have been a part of the EFPM since 1994. The main goal of the EFPM is to promote Fair Play and Tolerance in sports and everyday life at the European level. The EFPM seeks to achieve this goal by supporting its members, by helping to promote Fair Play campaigns where sports organisations take the initiative, by co-operating with the authorities to foster Fair Play themes and by facilitating regular contacts between the various European sports organisations.

The goal of EFPM Flash News is to keep people informed on EFPM's activities and to establish closer contact not only with all the EFPM members but also with all European governmental and non-governmental sport institutions and organisations aiming to support and to contribute to the promotion of Ethics in Sport and encouragement of the Fair Play values and principles in all sporting activities as well as in daily life.

All EFPM members, the above mentioned organisations and institutions, and associations with the same principles, are invited to communicate information relating to EFPM's goals (conferences, congresses, special events or initiatives, Fair Play prizes, books, etc....).

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Maybe you remember that at the 4th CSIT World Sports Games 2015 in Lignano-Sabbadoro (ITA), a Fair Play award was handed over to Rooho Mohammadi Mirzaei from Iran for outstanding behaviour. Some weeks later Rooho Mohammadi Mirzaei participated at the first joint EFPM/CIFP congress in Baku titled "Fair Play in Competitive Sport – Making it Real or Just an Ideal". This inspired him to establish a new NGO called *Fatian Fair Play* with the

Ministry of Interior in Iran. The members of this NGO are faculty, athletes, Olympic & Asian medal winners at all sports, senior managers in ministries and veterans. Activity areas at Fatian fair play have been defined in broad amateur, student, college and professional sports. On behalf of the EFPM & CIFP wish our friend and the new fair play organisation lots of success and we can promise supporting the development and promotion of sport ethics in Iran.



Kosice, the biggest city in eastern Slovakia, welcomed its title of European City of Sport 2016 with an opening ceremony held on its Main Street on 7

January 2016. Kosice has been the first Slovak city to be awarded the title by the European Capitals of Sport Association (ACES Europe). According to Richard Rasi, mayor of Kosice, the main ambition is to get the people of Kosice of all ages moving and to provide them with effective support for a healthy lifestyle. The city wants to develop traditional and new sporting events and to invest in sports facilities. "Kosice is a real example of how to motivate people to become involved in

physical activity, and that is what we're after in Europe, because sport means health, a good feeling, integration," added ACES Europe general secretary Hugo Alonso in his speech. Representatives of the European Commission, Yves Le Lostecque, Head of the Sport Unit, and of the Slovak Olympic Committee also congratulated Kosice on assuming the title. The fair play movement was represented by K.Raczova, National ambassador for sport, tolerance and fair play, EFPM executive member.





This year, the FIFA Fair Play Award which recognises exemplary behaviour promoting the spirit of fair play and compassion on and off the field, goes to all the football organisations and clubs around the world that are working to support refugees. In 2015 the world witnessed the refugee crisis in the Middle East and Europe due to the ongoing civil war in Syria. Many innocent people fled

their homes in desperate conditions to find safety for themselves and their loved ones. Football clubs and organisations from around the world took it upon themselves to assist refugees, welcoming them after their hard journey, providing them with basic necessities and helping them to rebuild their lives in unfamiliar surroundings. The award was accepted on stage at Zurich's Kongresshaus on 11 January 2016 by former Germany international Gerald Asamoah.

In a Hopman Cup match in January 2016 between American tennis player Jack Sock and Australian veteran Lleyton Hewitt, a ball was called out on a Hewitt serve. Hewitt went to take his second serve, when Sock stopped him and told him to challenge the call. "That was in if you want to challenge it," he said. Hewitt was visibly shocked by Sock's words, but then agreed to challenge the call. The chair umpire pointed out that Sock had already conceded the point, but decided to

have some fun with it.

They went to the board, and there it was — in. The crowd erupted in applause, and Hewitt went on to win the match. The video went viral on YouTube, having accumulated nearly 1.5 Mio hits and being titled "Sportsmanship at its absolute best".



There was an excellent moment of fair play in the Azerbaijani match between

Inter Baku and Qarabag. During the second half, the match official pointed to the spot after a Qarabag forward fell in the box after jumping over the onrushing Inter keeper. There was no

contact between the players, and the referee's penalty decision was poor. Qarabag midfielder Elvin Mamedov made a rare sporting gesture he deliberately missed a penalty against Inter Baku on the orders of his club's head coach. "The head coach Gurban Gurbanov told me that I should miss. This was a show of fair play from us. There was nothing out of the ordinary. If it really was a penalty, I would not have missed the target." Mamedov later said.

Italian second division league (Serie B) is introducing a green card in an attempt to promote fair play. The initiative took place during Spezia's match against Bari on January 15. The cards are "virtual" as they will not be handed out during matches but every player can earn one by putting the ball out of play, assisting the referee or even admitting to diving in the penalty area, according to Gazzetta dello Sport.

The Serie B president, Andrea Abodi, said: "It's a symbolic award. It can be something very simple. The important thing is to

recognise acts of fair play. This is just one part of a series of initiatives on and off the pitch. Respect has to come first and that's where this green card comes into play." The initiative is being introduced in collaboration with the Italian Refereeing Organisation with the aim of changing the image of Italian football and motivating players to promote good behaviour on the pitch.

At the end of every month the league will announce a list of all the names of the players who have been given a green card.



***Let us, together, take care of sports and Play Fair!
Enjoy your read and feel free to provide EFPM with information on your organisations, activities, and events.***