

National Fair Play Reports
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Club Fair Play of the Slovak Olympic and Sports Committee

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Tatiana Švecová, director of Sports High School

Miroslav Tomášik, sport journalist

Zuzana Wisterová, sport journalist

The Award Ceremonies of the Fair Play Club of the Slovak Olympic and Sports Committee (SOSC) at Major Youth Sports Events

The SOSC Fair Play Club sees the Fair Play Awards ceremony as one of their most important activities at major youth sports events in the Slovak Republic. The Club has been working together with sports federations and it prefers events where visualised Fair Play Cards have been used. These cards are the opposite of the infamous red and yellow cards shown by referees for breaking the rules. The Fair Play Card may be given to a player who does not commit a foul or quarrel with the referee, who acknowledges his or her breach of the rules or behaves fairly in a critical situation during a sports match and they may also be given to a coach, parent or teacher. The referee may award the players of both teams on the benches or even the spectators (for example, for an original way of cheering in the spirit of fair play, for funny posters, slogans etc.) with the green Fair Play Card.

In the same spirit, the Fair Play Award was announced, for instance, at

– **The Winter Kalokagathia** – a sports competitions event for elementary school pupils from all over Slovakia. In 2019, more than 350 pupils stood on the start line within various winter sports fields and disciplines. During the award ceremony of the sports competitions, the organisers under the auspices of the SOSC Fair Play Club awarded



the “Fair Play Award” to the elementary school with a kindergarten in Važec. Under the guidance of their teacher, Marek Baláž, they kept demonstrating that not only had they been led to act honestly in their lives and in sports activities, but also that they perform in line with those values. The award for the team from the elementary school with kindergarten in Važec was handed over by a member of the SOSC Fair Play Club Executive Board, Andrea Ristová.



Grammar School in Školská street in Spišská Nová Ves.

– Gaudeamus Igitur

Gaudeamus Igitur is devoted to secondary-school sportspeople and, in 2019, about 1200 participants from more than 80 schools joined the event.

During the Gaudeamus Igitur Olympics, the Fair Play Award for exemplary sportsmanship and fair play behaviour was awarded to volleyball players (girls) from the Secondary

– Slovakia Cup

This year, again, the SOSC Fair Play Club supported cooperation with the Slovak Football Association; the organising committee of the 29th year of the Slovakia Cup and the International Championship for under-18 national teams, which took place on May 20–24. The award for exemplary behaviour both on and off the pitch, for an exemplary team spirit that had been also created by the rivals from Real Madrid and FC Barcelona, as well as for exceptional decency, was awarded to the young competitors from Spain. The captain of the team, Ivan Morante Ruiz, received the plaque from the hands of a former Czechoslovak representative, Milan Nemec, together with Miroslav Tomášik, a member of the SOSC Fair Play Club Executive Board.



We plan to announce similar awards during other youth events, too. Some of them include:

- Children's Davis Cup and Fed Cup

At the 15th Slovak National Finals of the tennis Children's Davis Cup and Fed Cup, where 12 of the best under-10 boys' and girls' teams will participate, the Fair Play Team will be announced.

- Coupe de Samaria

More than 150 young fencers from around 20 countries will meet in Šamorín in October to compete, but also to prove that victory has some meaning only if achieved by fair means.

- ITTF Junior Circuit Slovak Junior & Cadet Open

Participants from over 25 countries are expected to join a world table tennis tournament for young people which is going to take place in early November in Nitra, believing that knightly deeds will abound.

Promotional Merchandise, Activities

During discussions, lectures and workshops, the members of the SOSC Fair Play Club will try to explain and demonstrate Olympic ideals to the young audience, pass on their experience, but also to raise their interest in sports. At the same time, the audience will have a chance to express their attitudes and opinions on the recent direction of the Olympic movement.

Printed and electronic media present stories and messages of important former and current sportspeople from Slovakia, as well as articles about the recent issues related to the world of sports. Recently, topics which earned the most attention mainly included:

The current meaning and mission of fair play

Olympic memories and fair play

The power of a positive example

School? Sport? Both is the best!

Sport reflects the society

Education in the spirit of fair play

Information on the events of the SOSC Fair Play Club are regularly issued on the home page of the SOSC, in the Olympic newsletter issued by the SOSC, in the Tokyo 2020 school magazine issued by the Slovak Sports Association in Schools and Kalokagathia in Slovakia, as well as on the page of the European Fair Play Movement and EFPM Newsletter.

Promotional merchandise popular among children are the SOSC Fair Play Club badges and flags with the rules of conduct.

Sport is a Chance

Based on international examples, a new project called Sport Is a Chance was launched in 2018; encouraged by last year's success, this year, again, we announced the competition for the best project emphasising the social and educational function of sports. At the same time, the project wishes to involve former as well as current figures of the Slovak sports world in the social aspects of life in order to inspire and motivate others to introduce positive changes into society. Last year, the Fair Play Club awarded a project by the Junior Karate Club of Prešov, "Juniorko". When implementing the project, the Club has been providing a long-term opportunity for the children from a socially disadvantaged environment to train and compete free of charge, thus creating the conditions for the children to get into the world of sports and show their abilities without any restrictions.

Fair Play Awards Ceremony



To give awards, we also use various sports events to raise interest in spreading the basic principles of fair play and promote the people who dedicated their work to the ideals of honesty. This is one of the ways we want to help every sports fan to understand that sport does not only mean victories and beating records, but it is also mutual respect and friendship.

For example, the players of the Dukla Trenčín ice-hockey club, **Peter Frühauf** and **Michal Valent**, were awarded the SOSC Fair Play Club Diplomas for exemplary conduct in front of a hopelessly sold-out auditorium before the prestigious match of Czech Republic–Slovakia. The awarding of the diplomas was transmitted by STV as well.

Judo coach and official, **Jozef Tománek** senior, accepted the well-earned award on the occasion of the opening ceremony of the XXXI year of the Grand Prix Judo Tournament. The lovely ceremony at the tatami sports hall of SOU (Secondary Vocational School) in Pezinok was witnessed by more than 600 promising judo-pupils and judoists in adolescent age.



One of the major SOSC Fair Play Club events is the annual Fair Play Awards ceremony for those who have contributed the most to the promotion of the fundamental ethical rules of sports in Slovakia. The SOSC Fair Play Club awards are divided into three categories: for exemplary conduct in the spirit of fair play, for a long-term contribution to the spirit of fair play and the promotion of fair play.

The awards are typically handed out during a festive event organised by SOSC. During the 55th General Assembly of SOSC, the Ján Popluhár Award, the most significant Slovak award in the field of exemplary fair play conduct, was in 2018 awarded to a triathlete, Michal Buček, who saved the life of a drowning swimmer during races in China. We are delighted that the self-sacrificing conduct of the young athlete was also positively assessed by the European Fair Play Movement and Michal Buček will be awarded the **European Fair Play Plaque of Merit and Diploma** made under the patronage of the European Olympic Committees.

“Presenting Fair Play awards is a huge appreciation for all those for whom sport is much more than just rivalry and physical competition. It basically gives a broader meaning to this area of human activities and, in one word – it makes more human...” said Michal Buček about the importance and significance of Fair Play Awards.

