



National Fair Play Report  
European Fair Play Movement General Assembly  
Vienna (AUT) September 25, 2021



SLOVAKIA



Unfortunately, the majority of the activities that had been scheduled by the Fair Play Club of the Slovak Olympic and Sports Committee (FPC SOSC) were cancelled as a consequence of the measures implemented to control the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. Although over the past months sporting life has been paralysed by the pandemic, the FPC SOSC sought various ways to spread ethical values in sport as well as in everyday life.

The Fair Play Club participated in the on-line painting contest organised by the International Fair Play Committee:

## EXPRESS YOURSELF THROUGH YOUR PAINTINGS!



Filip, from the youngest category of contestants, finished in an excellent second position, while Viktória won the bronze in the U14 category and Nina the silver in the 15 and over category. Two-year-old Janka, who also expressed her opinion, with help from her mummy, was probably the youngest participant.

During the COVID-19 pandemic the FPC SOSC, together with the European Fair Play Movement, launched the initiative:

## REACH OUT YOUR HAND AND SEND A MESSAGE

In times of social distancing, we wanted to share common values which will help us to overcome the difficulties many of us are facing and will continue to face still for some time.

The initiative was followed by 8,000 people through the Facebook page of the European Fair Play Movement.



## WORLD FAIR PLAY DAY

On 1st September, to celebrate WORLD FAIR PLAY DAY (WFPD), the FPC SOSC began to release a series of articles about the fair play movement, its origin and the significance of the WFPD, including interviews with sports celebrities, the winners of various fair play awards. The series included, for example, the following stories:

- To set a good example for his son, he made the gesture of a true gentleman – the story of the hockey player M. Pupák
- Fair sport must win. The Olympic champion Miloslav Mečíř speaks about the spirit of fair play
- The triathlete Buček who saved the life of a rival during a race: human life cannot be compared to anything else



- A triathlete went the wrong way before the finish line, the gesture by his contender is now admired all over the world – the story of D. Métrida (ESP)
- Fair play as a leitmotif of the beginning of the TIPOS Extraliga (the top ice hockey league in Slovakia) – the story of the Slovak hockey player P. Čerešňák

## OLYMPIC VALUES EDUCATION PROGRAMME

The Slovak Olympic and Sports Committee (SOSC) has prepared a Slovak version of the official educational materials of the OVEP programme. Led by Ivana Motolíková, the Head of Olympism Department as well as the Head of the Schools Programme for the Development of Olympism, EYOF 2021, it focuses on education along the lines of the Olympic values. The FPC SOSC has prepared material about the fair play movement that should contribute to the organisation of OVEP seminars for teachers and the subsequent inclusion of the Olympic Values Education Programme into curricular and extracurricular activities.

A series of webinars for pupils and teachers was also held as part of the Olympic Values Education Programme. The webinars that dealt with fair play particularly focused on:

Can you learn to play fair?

Together or against each other?

Olympic memories and fair play

Positive examples to fight negative phenomena

Fair play – inclusivity through Paralympic sports

We want to inspire young generation in Slovakia to moral and ethical conduct through sport. Our intention is to join countries, which place a specific importance to Olympic education.

This is the main incentive, why new colorful cards „Education in the spirit of Olympic values“ have been produced and provided to representatives of Slovak educational institutions. This material contains different focus themes, such as Sport without doping, Environmental education, as well as Fair play. The content is focused on children between 14 and 16 years of age.

The Fair Play cards should offer schools and other educational organisations interesting and inspiring information about the importance of fair play movement. The fair play agenda is very wide, whether we consider its origins, importance, or current insistent problems, such as commercialism, violence, racial hatred etc. Therefore, we have focused on themes, which are relevant in moral and ethical formation of a young human being. Those themes have been elaborated in 8 areas:

WHAT THE EXPRESSION FAIR PLAY MEANS AND HOW IT HAS EVOLVED

ORIGINS AND PURPOSE OF FAIR PLAY MOVEMENT

FAIR PLAY IN THE ERA OF ANCIENT OLYMPIC GAMES

FAIR PLAY IN THE ERA OF MODERN OLYMPIC GAMES

FAIR PLAY AT SCHOOLS

FAIR PLAY AND SPORTS FANS

FAIR PLAY AND PARALYMPIC GAMES

THE POWER OF POSITIVE EXAMPLES





Each of the thematic areas has the same structure and complement each other. They are introduced by a short video to raise interest and create atmosphere. Videos are available through a QR-code. The cards contain links to information sources for pedagogues, but also those, who are not familiar with the topic, so they can easily navigate and find useful information and adapt it to their needs.

The cards contain tasks requiring cooperation of students, so they can develop fellowship, respect of each other, or tolerance of different opinion. Most of the tasks develop cognitive functions and contribute to improvement of discussion and communication skills (e.g. through organisation of press conferences and surveys). They are complemented by physical games and activities, which contribute to understanding of fair play ideals and of the problems of disadvantaged social groups. Informal sport games help to develop creativity, fantasy and basic skills for everyday life and success in sport. The cards contain quotes of famous athletes about the importance of fair play in sport and everyday life.

The tasks on the cards are easy to practice, support voluntarily participation and are easy to adapt to conditions and needs of every school.

## FAIR PLAY AWARDS CEREMONY 2020

After a gap of a year, but with even more joy, on 17th September 2021, the Club Fair Play of the Slovak Olympic and Sports Committee presented its yearly awards in three categories, including the Jan Popluhar Award, named after the legendary Slovak footballer of the 20th century, which is the highest trophy of SOSOC in the field of Fair Play.

Holder of the Jan Popluhar Award 2020 is Štefan Svitko, a long-term representative of the Slovak Republic in motorcycling. He was the official face of the Dakar Rally in 2020. Throughout the whole rally his racing performance proved that he belonged among the leading racers of the world, but at the same time, he never failed to show his human side when he helped his rivals when they faced difficulties after painful falls during the race. Moreover, the Slovak Motorcycling Federation as well as the Club Fair Play of the Slovak Olympic and Sport



Committee would also like to highlight Štefan Svitko's work with young people – he leads young motorcycle racers and provides a great role model with regard to fair play and mutual help.

Since 2018, the Fair Play Club of the Slovak Olympic and Sports Committee has broadened its award categories. It organized a competition entitled “Sport is a Chance” to award the best project, which aims to highlight the social and educational function of sports, while at the same time involving former and/or current personalities of the Slovak sports world to inspire and motivate others to introduce positive changes into society. This year's winner was a project titled « KOŠICE CROWS » organized by a civic association, which actively cooperates with orphanages, which amounts to around 170 children. The organisers try to bring socially disadvantaged children to sport and provide them with suitable training conditions. Sports training not only contributes to improving sports skills and strengthening mental health, but also brings morality and a sense of responsibility into the lives of these children.

**The following personalities were honored:**

*For an exemplary gesture in the spirit of fair play:* Stefan Svitko – motorcycling, Marek Slovak, Miroslav Preisinger, Rudolf Huna, Žiga Pavlin (SLV) - ice hockey players, Ján Vaniak – table tennis, coach, official,

*For spreading and promotion of fair play principles:* Veronika Vadovičová - shooting, Slovakia's most-decorated summer Paralympian (four golds, a silver and a bronze), Marcel Nemec - pedagogue

*For long-term commitment to the spirit of fair play:* Juraj Štefák, (In memoriam) - table tennis, official, Igor Zelenay - tennis player, Ján Solivajs - cross-country skiing, coach, Jozef Nemec - ice hockey coach.



Štefan Svitko received the “Jan Popluhar Trophy” from SOOSC President Anton Siekel accompanied by Katarina Raczova President of the CFP SOOSC.



“In addition to their sporting performances, every athlete should give something to society” said Veronika Vadovičová. With four shooting gold medals to her name, she is already one of the sport’s luminaries.





One of the four award-winning hockey players, Marek Slovák. He corrected the referee's decision in an important match.

The SOSC as well as members of the SOSC FPC are highly appreciative that despite the complicated period that we have all been going through, there are still people whose life stories prove that they are justifiable role models who can mould the thoughts and actions of our younger generations.

