



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

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The Activities of the SOC Fair Play Club 2017 – 2018

The award ceremonies of the SOC Fair Play Club at major youth sports events
in the Slovak Republic

In 2018, the SOC Fair Play Club (SOC FPC) is celebrating its 25th anniversary. It has recently been confirmed that Fair Play Awards ceremonies at youth sports events are a remarkably efficient tool for raising public awareness, allowing the true heroes of the world of sports to be praised, who not only have produced results, but also show humanity and social empathy.

We are happy that the Fair Play Club logo – five smiling suns – lately has appeared at several events and our efforts to promote the use of the so-called Fair Play Cards in collaboration with sports federations have been increasingly fruitful. 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, 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 Fair Play Card.

At the beginning of February 2018, the Fencing Junior World Cup Championship took place in Bratislava. The referees not only closely examined the fencing itself, but also the demeanour of the fencers, coaches and spectators, and Fair Play Cards were also used. At the end of the event, the SOC FPC plaque was given to the Hungarian fencer Nelli Ladányi from the sports centre Szolnok, who during an important match with the score tied corrected the referee's verdict to her own detriment.

The 28th International Football Tournament for under-18 national teams, the Slovakia Cup was held from 7th to 11th May 2018. The SOC FPC in collaboration with the Slovak Football Association and the organizational committee of the tournament awarded the



Hungarian team with the Fair Play Award for exemplary behaviour both on and off the pitch, for exceptional decency and exemplary team spirit.

The Hungarian team captain Attila Mocsi was presented with the award by Ján Švehlík, who belongs to the famous generation of footballers, the Europeans champions of Belgrade, 1976.

From 21st to 24th June, the 25th International Wheelchair Tennis Tournament, the Slovakia Open 2018 took place at the TC Empire, Trnava. The Slovak Sports Association for the Disabled in collaboration with the Slovak Tennis Federation, under the auspices of the SOC Fair Play Club, announced the premiere of the Fair Play Award competition at this event, which was eventually handed to the Polish athlete Tadeusz Kruszelski by a member of the SOC Fair Play Club Executive Board, Andrea Ristová. The behaviour of the six-time Paralympic participant showed that what matters to him is not only the result, but also the way it is achieved. His respect for ethical principles is exemplary.



The Slovak Olympic Committee Fair Play Club became a partner of the Slovak Children's Homes Championship. The championship was joined by more than 500 children from 50 children's homes and became the best social project by the Slovak Football Association. *"The green card is a useful way that children can comprehend what we hope to achieve – a positive education. When the spirit of*

fair play is present, even those who would like to cheat will adapt. If we only aim to achieve results, all our efforts will come to nought..." Lubomír Dranga, a member of the Múdry Pes Association, the co-organizer of the event, pointed out. The Fair Play Club plaque was given to the Trnava district team. The award was handed out by Miroslav Tomášik, the SOC Fair Play Club Executive Board member, and Pavol Hurajt, the bronze medal bi-athlete from the 2010 Olympics.



The Fair Play Card was also used during the U-14 Regional Slovak Football Association tournaments. For this occasion, the SFA prepared a short film encouraging fair-play.

The use of Fair Play Cards was no exception in the traditional International Olympiad of Children and Youth – Kalokagathia, organized every two years, always a year after the "big" Olympics. After the end of the sports competitions, the organizational committee and representatives of the SOC FPC evaluated the fair play green cards awarded and decided to award the volleyball team from the British International School, Bratislava, with the SOC FPC plaque for their exemplary behaviour throughout the entire event. The young athletes of this team were an example of the peaceful co-existence of various nationalities and showed kinship, true teamwork, friendship and a high level of honesty. The award was presented by the SOC FPC chairman and member of the SOC FPC Executive Board, Katarína Ráčová and the organizational committee secretary, Andrea Ristová.

The Fair Play Movement also took part in the European Women's Under-22 Softball Championship. During the closing ceremony, the Israeli representatives were awarded with the SOC Fair Play Club plaque under the auspices of the European Fair Play Movement. Their kind behaviour of the Israeli team, along with their respect for opponents and referees



greatly fostered the awareness of the fundamental principles of fair play. The award was presented by Katarína Ráčová, a member of the EFPM Executive Board and the SOC Fair Play Club Chairman, in the presence of Gabriel Waage, the President of the European Softball Federation.

The first Fair Play Team competition took place at the Slovak National Finals of the Children's Davis Cup and Fed Cup with the SPP Foundation by Tipos. Twelve of the best U10 boys' and girls' teams participated in this popular youth project. At the opening ceremony of the event, each of them was given Fair Play Cards on which were the resolutions of a true athlete and





where the referees described their behaviour in the spirit of fair play. At the end of the tournament, the title 'Fair Play Team' was given to: Slovan Bratislava A, Mladost' Košic and the Boys' Tennis Club, Banská Bystrica.

The children received their awards from Miloš Mečír, the Olympic Singles Champion in the Seoul Olympics of 1988, Katarína Ráčová, the SOC FPC Chairman, and Zuzana Wisterová, a member of the SOC FPC Executive Board.

Promotional Merchandise, Activities

Visitors have had the chance to read the interesting opinions of major former and contemporary Slovak athletes about the importance of honest behaviour, as well the chance to share their own views, through the printed media, the SOC Facebook page and the SOC and SOC FPC website. Information about the Fair Play Movement and the SOC FPC activities was published regularly and positive sports stories were shared in the school magazine, Tokyo 2020, issued by the Slovak Sports Association in Schools and Kalokagathia in Slovakia.

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

Fair Play Awards Ceremony

One of the major SOC FPC 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 SOC 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. All of these have three levels, with the highest award being the Ján Popluhár Award, named after the most famous Slovak Footballer of the century. It is followed by the SOC FPC Award and the SOC FPC Diploma. In 2017, the SOC and its Fair Play Club gave the Ján Popluhár Award to the former hockey player Miroslav Šatan, a former captain of the Slovak team and a quadruple





Olympic athlete. Šatan is a major figure not only in the world of Slovak hockey, but also in the whole of the Slovak sports movement. *"It is not natural for me to win dishonestly. If a sportsman wants to enjoy his success, he must achieve it fairly,"* stated the legendary hockey player.

The SOC FPC also awarded the marathon runner Marek Hladík for helping the Kenyan runner Recho Kosgei (who collapsed just before the finish) at the Warsaw Marathon in September 2017. The proposal of this award and the conduct of the young athlete were praised by the CIFP, and Marek Hladík was awarded the CIFP Diploma.

Another equally important international award *FAIR PLAY SPIRIT*, bestowed annually by the European Fair Play Movement (EFPM), was given to the Kalokagathia – the International Olympiad of Children and Youth. This event, the objective of which is to combine the pursuit of physical perfection with spiritual beauty and human good in the spirit of the Ancient Greek Kalokagathia, was from the very beginning understood as a process for the permanent promotion of the principles of fair play. Anton Javorka, the founder of this important event, and the Chairperson of Organizational Committee, Andrea Ristová, received the awards during the opening of the event's 14th edition.

Sport Is Hope

Since 2018, the SOC Fair Play Club has diversified its award categories. It organized a competition entitled 'Sport Is Hope' for the best project with the aim of highlighting the social and educational function of sports. At the same time, the project wishes to involve former and/or 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. The first winner of this award was a project by the Junior Karate Club of Prešov "*Juniorko*". The aim of the project is to support the integration of children from socially vulnerable environments, to support the growth of their personalities, provide positive interactions with ordinary people living in more socially stable environments. In the framework of the project, the organizers provided five children "adopted" from a children's home in Prešov with a sports education. They raised them and one has become the Karate Champion of the Slovak Republic and another the Junior Karate Vice-Champion of Slovakia.