



National Fair Play Reports
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**REPORT
ON FAIR PLAY ACTIVITIES IN SLOVENIA
NOVEMBER 2018 – JULY 2019**

The Olympic Committee of Slovenia, together with the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, the Slovenian Sports Journalists Association and national sport and educational organisations, is leading programme for promoting sporting behaviour. Through the program, we promote values and fair play, we nominate best fair play performance and point out inappropriate behaviours and actions, violence and irregularities in sport.

The Ambassador of Sport, Tolerance and Fair Play, Mr. Miroslav Cerar, and his deputies Ms. Petra Majdic and Dr. Stanislav Pinter play an important role in the program. They participate at events and workshops, they are role-models for fair play and they promote sports values and sporting behaviour through a direct approach to different target groups as well as for a wider audience through media.

The most important parts / aspects of the programme are:

- Promotion of sports and fair play values for children and youth,
- Activities for promotion of sports and fair play values in media,
- Educational and promotional activities for young and elite athletes,
- Educational and promotional activities for coaches and representatives of sports and educational organisations,
- Nominations for best fair play examples,
- Awards for fair play performance,
- Participation of the ambassadors and deputies at sports and other public events in Slovenia,
- Cooperation with EFPM and CIPP.

The general objectives of the campaign follow the NOC Slovenia Long-term Strategic plan and Slovenian National Sport Programme “To build a better Slovenia through Sport”, with the aim of instilling sports values and fair play into the “behaviour” of athletes and all those participating in sport as well as those who support or follow sport.

In the National Report for the EFPM we would like to emphasise some most important events and activities.

SLOVENIAN TENNIS ASSOCIATION PRESENTS FAIR PLAY AWARD

Ljubljana, 27 November 2018



The Slovenian Tennis Association presented its 2018 Fair Play Award, which was given to tennis player ALJAŽ KIRBIŠ.

He received the Fair Play Award from Miroslav Cerar, the Slovenian Ambassador for Sport, Tolerance and Fair Play.

FAIR PLAY AWARD FOR 2019, 30. November 2018



Aleš Žontar, born 1982, from Prežganje near Ljubljana, is a professional soldier, level-surface and mountain runner and member of the Nanos Podnanos Sports Club. His peers consider him one of the kindest, selfless and supportive runners. This is especially apparent at the many track and competitive events. Aleš is one of the best Slovenian runners. He is a member of the Slovenian Mountain Marathon Team, also holding the national championship title in

the discipline. He is equally successful in trail and road marathons, having won the 42-kilometer Istrian Marathon thrice and becoming its ambassador.

In 2018, he received special recognition from the Slovenian Mountain Running Association for his sportsmanship. Žontar came in third at the qualifying race for the Slovenian National Mountain Running Team and was presented with the national running jersey. However, since two of his competitors – whom he deemed better athletes and who had better prior results – strayed from the poorly marked path and crossed the finish line after him, he informed the leadership of the mountain running association of these facts, stating that the two runners deserved to make the national team more than he. His opinion was (partially) noted, but Žontar was likewise given a spot on the team.

Recently, he had also organized and successfully carried out a fundraising event. When one of his running friends found himself in difficult circumstances, Žontar decided to help. He setup a social network fundraising campaign, which he also successfully managed.

EUROPA CUP IN FIGHTING – OPENING CEREMONY – 15TH MARIBOR OPEN, Maribor, 2 March 2019



Miroslav Cerar at the grand opening of the EUROPA CUP FIGHTING – 15TH MARIBOR OPEN – venue also has EFPM billboard

From 2 to 3 March 2019, Maribor hosted the European championship in Ju-Jitsu, which brought together 16 countries and 520 competitors. It was organized by the ADK Maribor

Ju-Jitsu Club and the Ju-Jitsu Federation of Slovenia under the leadership of Robert Perc and the President of the European Ju-Jitsu Federation.

As guest of honor at the opening ceremony, Miroslav Cerar greeted competitors, wishing them a successful competition and stressing the importance of fair play.

For the duration of the competition, the venue, Tabor Sports Hall, displayed an EFPM billboard, since the European Ju-Jitsu Federation became an EFPM member.

NEW BOOK: SLOVENIANS IN CROATIAN SPORT, Zagreb, 23 May 2019



Photographed (from left to right): Rudi Merljak, State Secretary from the Office of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for Slovenians Abroad, Dr. Smiljena Knez, Slovenian Ambassador in Zagreb, Miroslav Cerar and Sonja Poljšak, President of the Commission for National Minorities Sport at the OCS-ASF.

A new bilingual book, written by Eduard Hemar, *Slovinci u hrvatskom sportu – Slovenians in Croatian Sport – New Biographies* was presented at Prešeren Hall, part of the Zagreb Slovenian Community Hall. It is the fourth book examining notable Slovenians or persons with Slovenian heritage in Croatia, who have contributed to the development of various segments of society.

This is the second sports-themed book by the same author; the first, *Slovenians in Croatian Sport*, was published in 2014.

The preface to the book was written by Miroslav Cerar, the most successful Slovenian athlete of all time; he especially stressed the importance of sportsmanship and fair play.

In addition to Hemar, who authored the book, and the editor, Smiljana Jelčić Ivanošić, Darko Šonc,

President of the Slovenian Community Hall and Slovenian National Minority Council of the City of Zagreb, also gave a speech, thanking and congratulating the author, the editor, Smiljana Jelčić Ivanošić, and the Slovenian translator, Ilinka Todorovski for their extraordinary and valuable contributions. *Slovenci u hrvatskom sportu – novi životopisi / Slovenci v hrvaškem sportu – novi življenjepisi* (Slovenians in Croatian Sport – New Biographies) presents 90 athletes. Although the number of entries is smaller compared to the first book, which includes 140 athletes, the number of pages remains the same, since the new biographies are generally more exhaustive and contain more photographs. The idea for the book was given by the Slovenian Community Hall and the Slovenian National Minority Council of the City of Zagreb with the aim of presenting notable individuals, who throughout history bridged the divide between the Croatian and Slovenian nation, to the Croatian and Slovenian public – including those who continue this important role now that both countries are EU member states.

The presentation was attended by many former athletes, whose in-depth biographies grace the pages of the book, including legendary Slovenian gymnast, Olympic medalist and Ambassador of Sport of the Republic of Slovenia, Miroslav Cerar, who wrote the preface to the book. In his speech, he expressed his appreciation and offered his congratulations, stressing the significance of such a work: "Its contents are a wonderful and telling account of the generation of Slovenians living in Croatia." Also present were Slavko Podgorelec, co-founder and first Secretary-General of the Croatian Olympic Committee, who offered his congratulations and thanked everyone on behalf of the athletes mentioned in the book; Dr. Smiljana Knez, the Slovenian Ambassador in Croatia; Sonja Poljšak, President of the Commission for National Minorities Sport at the OCS-ASF, and Rudi Merljak from the Office of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for Slovenians Abroad.

PROMOTING THE 2020 OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES IN TOKYO IN COOPERATION WITH THE JAPANESE EMBASSY IN SLOVENIA

Ljubljana, 26 March 2019

The Japanese Embassy in Ljubljana, together with the Olympic Committee of Slovenia, the Slovenia-Japan Business Council, and the Sports Federation for the Disabled of Slovenia, organized a promotional campaign for the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo. This occasion was marked with the publication of a book on Slovenian sport, Slovenian Olympic champions and Slovenian-Japanese cooperation in the field of sport. The work also presents Miroslav

Cerar who is currently the Ambassador of Sport, Tolerance and Fair Play and also won a gold medal at the 1964 Tokyo Olympics.



Photographed (from left to right): Miroslav Cerar; His Excellency, Masaharu Yoshida, the Ambassador of Japan; Tine Šrot and Janez Brodnik – both Olympic athletes from the 1964 Games in Tokyo.

OLYMPIC COMMITTEE OF SLOVENIA PRESENTS THE FAIR PLAY AWARD, Ljubljana, 11 April 2019



Alex Cisar, biathlete, and Miroslav Cerar

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The junior world biathlon champion, Alex Cisar, was awarded the Fair Play Award by the Olympic Committee of Slovenia. The award was presented by Miroslav Cerar who boasts 30 medals from major sporting competitions, currently making him the greatest Slovenian athlete of all time.

Alex Cisar won two gold medals in sprint and pursuit at this year's Biathlon Junior World Championships in Osrblie, Slovakia.

A little later, at the Slovenian Biathlon Cup in Pokljuka, he accidentally stepped on one of Tilen Gregorka's poles, who then lost it. Cisar proceeded to give him his own, going back for Gregorka's and continuing the race, which he consequently did not win.

"It was a spur of the moment thing, instinctual. I thought nothing of it, even after crossing the finish line. I was surprised at the overwhelming response this simple gesture had among the public, especially since it should be part and parcel of sport and life in general", said Cisar who currently attends the France Prešeren Secondary School in Kranj. A proposal for the Fair Play Award for 2019 was also sent to the EFPM.

WORLD OLYMPIANS FORUM, Lausanne, Switzerland from 15 to 17 April 2019



The Forum was also attended by Miroslav Cerar

The three-day International Olympic Committee (IOC) sports Forum in Lausanne was attended by more than 350 athletes representing 185 countries – the largest event of its kind to date. The Forum was likewise attended by representatives of the largest sports organizations.

According to the IOC, the participants included around 50 international sports federations, representatives of all five continental and other national representatives of players' associations, the organizers of the next Olympic Games, as well as representatives of the Paralympic Committee and the World Anti-Doping Agency.

The athletes advocated for increased participation in decision-making and activities. Even though such wide-ranging participations somewhat stifled concrete discussion, the event nevertheless resulted in a few decisions which will influence the future development of sport and the role athletes play in it. Going forward, athletes will have more say in bodies deciding on various sports matters; the IOC's solidarity financial model will also be strengthened. The latter point includes the decision to switch the IOC solidarity fund support from national Olympic committees directly to the Olympic teams.

A proposal was submitted to the IOC's Executive Committee, asking that the athletic commissions of national Olympic committees receive direct financial support of up to USD 10,000 (EUR 8,800) per annum, which would enable financially weaker organizations to function without interruptions. They also put forward a proposal to improve the support models for athletes' second careers: the proposed model involves systematic preparation for a career in other fields after their career in sport has ended. They have additionally proposed further measures to combat doping and promote clean sport, which would also improve the health of athletes.

The IOC Sports Commission will therefore improve its collaboration with the scientific and health community with the aim of avoiding injuries and other problems associated with professional sport. However, the discussion did not only concern the professional athletes' physical, but also mental health issues, which may arise as a result of stress and exertion.

MORE THAN 21 YEARS OF AMBASSADORSHIPS FOR FAIR PLAY AND TOLERANCE IN SPORT, Ljubljana, 11 April 2019



Photographed (from left to right): Blaž Perko, Secretary-General of the OCS-ASF, Miroslav Cerar, and Dr. Stanko Pintar, Deputy Ambassador of the Republic of Slovenia for Sport, Tolerance and Fair Play

Ethical excellence in sport, represented by the Fair Play Movement, has been present in Slovenia in an organized way for almost a quarter of a century. Olympic gold medalist Miroslav Cerar has been the Ambassador for Sport, Tolerance and Fair Play since the very beginning. Among his many achievements, he won the pommel horse event and received a gold medal at the 1964 Tokyo Olympics and once again in Ciudad de Mexico, for years later.

"I competed at a time when sport was an amateur activity; the clubs and associations taught us to be well-rounded people; they demanded good grades in school, that you were accepted to university or held down a job. At the same time, we competed and trained as much as professional athletes do today, because it meant something to us. While we didn't know what fair play was back then, we knew about honesty, responsibility and self-criticism. We were raised in this kind of spirit and we lived it," said **Miroslav Cerar** in his speech.

The International Fair Play Committee, which also counts the Slovenian gold medalist as one of its members, was established by UNESCO members five decades ago. Twenty-five years ago, Cerar was also one of the 14 founding members of the European movement, which now includes 41 countries. "Back then, an important part of our activities involved fighting any and all forms of discrimination and violence. The fight against doping was becoming increasingly prominent and this was followed by wider societal issues, such as the spectator-athlete relationship and relationships with parents; nowadays, it also includes illegal betting and corruption in general. The list is becoming almost endless," added **Cerar**.

While the Deputy Ambassador, Dr. Stanislav Pinter, offered an in-depth look at the role of the ambassadorship in Slovenia, the Secretary-General of the Slovenian Olympic Committee, Blaž Perko, pointed out that since 2016, the organization has an anonymous tip line called Žvižgavka (Whistler), which can be used to report any irregularities in sport. The SOC reports the cases to the proper authorities, the police, the Athlete Ombudsman, or to its ethics and discipline committee. Perko pointed out that fair play is most systematically developed in football – from the World Cup down to the national level.

Cerar stressed that problems also exist at the recreational level and pointed out that parents also play a role: "It's unbelievable, the types of unsuitable behavior you see among amateur athletes, stimulants and the like, even though the emphasis should not be on competition, but rather on health and spending quality time with others."

He singled out the father of a twelve-year-old boy, shouting at his child during a competition abroad. "He was shouting all sorts of obscenities in Slovene, which no one understood. But everyone got the gist of it and were horrified when he hit him at the end. A true embarrassment, especially for our country. And we see this not only among overambitious parents, but also trainers."

ANTI-DOPING IN SPORTS CONFERENCE, 4–5 June 2019 – OSLO

The conference was also attended by Miroslav Cerar who presented EFPM activities during talks with the participants.



The 2nd edition of the Anti-Doping in Sports Conference on 4 June 2019 in Oslo challenged athletes, sports federations, sponsors and broadcasters alike to stand in for a clean and ethical sports by not shying away from the truth and asking uncomfortable, challenging questions.

Transparency, Trust and Accountability – these were the keywords that over-echoed the proceedings of the 2nd Anti-Doping in Sports Conference held on 4 June 2019 in Oslo. Organized by the World Forum for Ethics in Business (WFEB) in partnership with Anti-



Doping Norway and FairSportforthesecond year in a row, the conference focused on the importance of placing athletes more at the center of the development of anti-doping work. In addition, speakers pointed out why the media are important contributors to the fight against doping and how sponsors can and should impose sport on anti-doping.

‘Sports unite people across the continents and it is important to keep it clean, said WFEB founder Sri Sri Ravi Shankar in his keynote address. ‘On one hand, we condemn people who are in this world who are in doping and on the other hand, there are those that encourage it. We need to identify those who supply doping. And also athletes who are trapped in this – they need help and not condemnation. They need compassion’, he added.

OLYMPIC DAY – OLYMPIC VAUES BRING US TOGETHER – 12 June 2019



12 June 2019 in nine Slovenian municipalities

Together with its members, the Slovenian Olympic Committee organized activities in twelve municipalities across Slovenia to mark the Olympic Day celebrations, which included the participation of professional athletes. The events commemorated the foundation of the IOC and were aimed at encouraging individuals to take part in sporting activities, and promoted Olympic and fair play values.

June is not only the first summer month, it is also an Olympic one. This year, it started off with an Olympic hike in Maribor. The main event was on 12 June when athletes, who took part in the largest sporting competition in the world, visited primary schools and spent the day with children.

The Slovenian Olympic Committee promoted the Olympic spirit at twelve venues across Slovenia. The Olympic Hour with current and former professional athletes and Olympic competitors, who spent an active morning with the school children, was all about Olympic values, encouraging exercise as part of a healthy lifestyle, learning, discovering sportsmanship, fair play, and olympism. The guests talked about sport and the positive influence it has had on their lives, reminiscing about their formative years.

"I remember how we used to ask the teachers during class whether we could go to the bathroom, then we spent that time listening to Slovenians compete on the radio." That's how Primož Kozmus remembers his school days. Little did he know that years in the future, he would be the one impatiently listening for news from the Bird's Nest stadium in Beijing where he would go on to win an Olympic gold medal in 2008. Some were inspired to seek a career in sport by the desire to win, others by their mentors. "My teacher Marko was the one who convinced me to go with handball and not one of the other sports," said David Miklavčič,

who took part in the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio and later won a bronze medal at the world championship in France.

Not all stories from Olympic champions start out with sports, however. Filip Flisar first wanted to make it in the music industry: "My classmate and I had a band, but after I forgot the lyrics during a junior prom performance and then had microphone trouble, I decided to switch from music to sport." And quite successfully so.

Olympic competitors and athletes, including Žan Košir, Meta Mačus, Rok Marguč, Jernej Damjan, Robert Kranjec, Primož Kobe, Gašper Vinčec, Iza Mlakar, Miha Šimenc and Teja Melink, presented schools with a signed commemorative photo to remind them of the Olympic-themed day. It is sure to inspire a whole new generation of athletes who will see it hanging in their school's hallway. Who knows, we may just end up cheering for them in a couple of years time.

EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES BEACH VOLLEYBALL AND WATER POLO CHAMPIONSHIP, Koper, 21 to 26 July 2019 – OCS-ASF PRESENTS FAIR PLAY AWARD



The 12th European Universities Volleyball Championship and the 1st European Universities Water Polo Championship were organized by the Slovenian University Sports Association (SUSA) and the University Sports Association of Primorska (UŠZP), in collaboration with the University of Primorska (UP), the City of Koper (MOK), and the Student Organization of the University of Primorska (ŠOUP). As such, it is part of the European university championships covered by the European University Sports Association (EUSA). **The event was attended by around 200 athletes from 24 European countries. The Fair Play Award was presented by Sonja Poljšak, member of the Slovenian Olympic Committee's Executive Board, and given to an Israeli volleyball player, Alexander Kopzon, from Technion – Israel Institute of Technology.**

EUROFEST – EUROPEAN HANDBALL FESTIVAL, Koper, from 2 July to 8 July 2019 - OCS-ASF PRESENTS FAIR PLAY AWARD From 2 to 7 July 2019, Koper hosted the traditional 27th EUROFEST – EUROPEAN HANDBALL FESTIVAL. No less than 3,500 athletes from 20 countries took part in the event. It is the largest sport event in Slovenia. During the closing ceremony, the OCS-ASF presented its Fair Play Award. It was given to the fans of the Sebastjan Sovič Handball School team from Velenje. The award was presented by Sonja Poljšak, an OCS-ASF member.



A VAN WITH THE WORDS "FAIR PLAY" USED BY THE WOMEN'S BOWLING TEAM FROM KOPER, WHICH COMPETES IN SLOVENIA'S FIRST NATIONAL LEAGUE.



Prepared by: Slovenian Olympic Academy (Ms. Sonja Poljšak and Mr. Ales Solar)