



Sport Matters Human Rights Policy

This policy will apply to all activities and operations of Sport Matters.

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to work towards ensuring everyone has the opportunity to enjoy human rights and achieve their full potential using 'sport for development' as main instrument to build individual and community capacity. Sport Matters uses a rights-based approach in all its dealings.

Sport continues to play a role in advancing the global development agenda and is recognised within the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as "an important enabler of sustainable development."

Sport Matters affirms that all people are born with inherent dignity and worth, and equal and inalienable rights, regardless of their race; religion; disability; health status; gender; gender identity; sexuality; sexual orientation; language; political or other opinion; nationality, ethnicity, indigeneity or social origin; caste; property; birth; age; displacement; poverty; class or other status.

2. Policy

Sport Matters is committed to human rights in all aspects of its programs and activities, particularly in relation to vulnerable and disadvantaged groups.

Sport Matters recognises that these human rights have often not been upheld and aims to respect and promote the rights of people, particularly those from vulnerable and disadvantaged groups including people with disabilities, and to work with them towards ensuring their enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms on an equal basis with others. Sport Matters further recognises the intersecting drivers of marginalisation.

Sport Matters will:

- work in partnership with local communities;
- contribute to data collection and reporting where practicable;
- ensure that every child/person has the right to play and sport in a safe and healthy environment;

- ensure our programs are well designed, inclusive, sustainable and culturally aligned;
- recognise the intersecting drivers of marginalisation throughout the project cycle
- promote non-violence; tolerance and respect amongst all participants.

Sport Matters is committed to the inclusion and representation of those who are vulnerable and those who are affected by the intersecting drivers of marginalisation and exclusion, including not restricted to race, religion, ethnicity, indigeneity, disability, age, displacement, caste, gender, gender identity, sexuality, sexual orientation, poverty, class and socio-economic status.

3. Procedures

Sport Matters works to achieve poverty alleviation through inclusive, sustainable development practices, using sport as the main instrument to build individual and community capacity.

Inclusive development ensures that marginalised groups actively participate and benefit from the development processes and outcomes, regardless of their age, gender, disability, state of health, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, religion or any other characteristics. It seeks to address the deepening inequality and consequent lack of access to opportunities for those who are excluded from development gains and processes.

Sport Matters always works in partnership with community organisations and wherever possible develops new partnerships between aid and development organisations, sporting organisations at all levels, and community organisations.

The work of Sport Matters is informed by four key elements which assist us to respect, protect and fulfil human rights in activities and projects:

1. Promoting accountability and transparency among duty-bearers, including NGOs themselves;
2. Fostering empowerment and capacity development of rights-holders to hold duty-bearers to account;
3. Working in partnership with rights-holders and, when relevant, with duty-bearers and other rights-focused alliances;
4. Ensuring meaningful participation of rights-holders.

4. International Instruments

Sport Matters recognises that human rights are interdependent and indivisible and seeks to contribute to the realisation of all other human rights instruments and to use these instruments where relevant in advocacy, including:

Specific:

Participation in sport and physical activity is itself also a human right:

- Article 1 of the Revised International Charter of Physical Education, Physical Activity and Sport adopted by UNESCO's General Assembly (2015) states that: "The practice of physical education, physical activity and sport is a fundamental right for all".
- Article 30 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006) affirms the right of persons with disabilities to: "Participation in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport".
- Article 31 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) states that: "Children have the right to relax and play, and to join in a wide range of cultural, artistic and other recreational activities".

Generic:

1. The United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights;
2. The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;
3. The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;
4. The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination;
5. The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
6. The United Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women;
7. The United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment;
8. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
9. The revised UNESCO International Charter of Physical Education, Physical Activity and Sport

5. Further Resources

[Centre for Sport and Human Rights](https://www.sporhumanrights.org/)
<https://www.sporhumanrights.org/>

[Safeguarding Athletes from Harrassment and Abuse in Sport: IOC Toolkit for NFs and NOCs related to creating and implementing athlete safeguarding policies and procedures](#)

This policy will be implemented through Sport Matters compliance procedures, Board and staff management processes and across our program management systems.

The Board and management of Sport Matters are fully committed to the principles of this policy. Any breach of strategic significance or any material risk associated with this policy will be reported to the Board in a timely manner.

POLICY REVIEW

Date Policy reviewed and effective	29 November 2021
Date for Policy to be reviewed	29 November 2023
Date Policy reviewed and approved	28 th March 2024