



#5 Fairplay initiative – monitoring of discriminatory incidences in football

Leading organisation: VIDC
Country: Austria
Contact: fairplay@vidc.org



Type of discrimination

- Racial Discrimination in Sports

Target group

- Football community in general: clubs, fans, players, club officials and representatives, media

Problem/Solution

- Someone witnesses a racist, homophobic, sexist, right-wing or neo-Nazi incident at a football match and wants to report it anonymously.
- The fairplay monitoring scheme is a joint procedure developed by the Austrian Football Association (ÖFB), the Austrian Football Leagues (ÖFBL) and the fairplay initiative for diversity and anti-discrimination at VIDC. Unfortunately, discrimination in soccer still happens. In order to be able to do something about it in the long term, such cases must be documented and concrete action taken against them.

Objective

The fairplay initiative believes in inclusive sport without discrimination, however not everyone shares this vision. Reporting discrimination is a means by which we can highlight problems. Therefore, it is important to recognize discriminatory incidents as such, and to take preventive action.

The fairplay initiative deals also with other forms of discrimination in sport, like sexism, homophobia, anti-Semitism, right-wing incidences etc., but the fight against racism was at the starting point at its foundation in 1997.

Description of activity

An online reporting form can be used to report cases of discrimination to the fairplay initiative. The report will be made anonymous - unless explicitly stated otherwise - and personal data will not be passed on to third parties without consent.

Procedure:

1. Cause: After the report has been received, the person making the report will be consulted.
2. Obtaining information: Afterwards, the fairplay initiative contacts the involved clubs, if possible the involved persons/groups as well as the ÖFB or the ÖFBL (depending on the competence) in order to obtain further information and to get a comprehensive picture of the situation and to give all parties involved the opportunity to comment.
3. Become active: An incident is taken as an opportunity by the fairplay initiative to take preventive measures with the clubs and the associations.

As an expert, the fairplay initiative takes on an advisory role, supports the measures and documents all reported incidents.

As a supporting and advisory initiative, the fairplay initiative has no legal authority to take action against or impose sanctions on affected clubs/organisations for discrimination. This competence lies exclusively with the ÖFB or the ÖFBL or the regional football associations in accordance with the provisions of the ÖFB Code of Conduct. ↻

Results

- How are reports handled?
- After a report has been received by the fairplay initiative, a member of staff will contact the reporter.
- The name and function of the person reporting the incident will be treated confidentially and will not be passed on to third parties, either verbally or in writing, unless the person reporting the incident has given his/her express consent.
- Further personal data such as the address etc. of the applicant will be processed solely by the fairplay initiative in accordance with the provisions of data protection law.
- Disciplinary bodies of ÖFB or ÖFBBL deal with the causes, if applicable.
- Involved clubs take preventive measures

Top tips

- Joint development process with the Football Association and the Football League.
- Public announcement on the websites of all three partners.

More

- Website: <https://www.fairplay.or.at/service/diskriminierung-im-fussball-melden>
- Guides
 - https://www.fairplay.or.at/fileadmin/Bibliothek/Fairplay/download/Antidiskriminierung/Diskriminierung_im_Fussball_melden_Fassung2018.pdf
 - <https://www.farenet.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Fare-Signs-and-Symbols-Guide.pdf>

