

WORLD ATHLETICS
**HUMAN RIGHTS
POLICY**



WORLD
ATHLETICS[®]

Introduction

World Athletics is committed to respecting all internationally proclaimed human rights. World Athletics will take all appropriate measures to ensure it is not complicit in human rights abuses.

Human Rights

The human rights referred to in this Policy are recognised in:

- The United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the UNICEF Convention on the Rights of the Child, the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, and the UN Global Compact;
- The International Labour Organisation's Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work.

World Athletics' Constitution, Rules and Regulations

The Constitution makes it one of World Athletics' purposes to "*preserve the right of every individual to participate in Athletics as a sport, without unlawful discrimination of any kind undertaken in the spirit of friendship, solidarity and fair play*" (Art. 4.1.(j)).

The Integrity Code of Conduct protects the values of Equality and Dignity by requiring all Applicable Persons under the Code:

- "Equality: **not to unlawfully discriminate** on the basis of race, sex, ethnic origin, colour, culture, religion, political opinion, marital status, sexual orientation or other differences and in particular to encourage and actively support equality of gender in Athletics" (Rule 3.3.9);
- "Dignity: **to respect the dignity** of individuals" (Rule 3.3.10).

World Athletics takes its responsibilities for creating safe and positive environments for all in, and involved with, the Athletics community seriously. World Athletics has developed a Safeguarding Policy to guide stakeholders on how to guard against abuse, harassment and exploitation so as to inspire and grow the sport. World Athletics has also created Safeguarding Rules to give World Athletics the power to make orders imposing safeguards, limitations and/or restrictions on individuals enabling World Athletics to fulfil this commitment, ensuring that safe, happy and positive environments are created for individuals to participate in Athletics and everyone is able to achieve their full athletic potential while being treated with dignity and respect at all times.

Principles

World Athletics, the Area Associations and the Member Federations will:

- recognise the dignity and worth of every person participating in Athletics;
- use the power of sport to engage and drive change for a better world;
- promote equity, in particular equity of opportunity between the sexes, dignity, and fairness in sport competitions and sport governance;
- avoid infringing on the human rights of individuals, including through their own activities, and to address such harm if it occurs;
- seek to prevent or mitigate such harm caused by third parties they engage with; and
- use their leverage to influence these third parties to abide by the principles in this policy.

There may be situations where a tension arises between the rights of persons participating in Athletics and the rights of other persons, and/or with other principles set out in this Policy, and/or with World Athletics' legitimate aim to ensure fair competition. When this happens, World Athletics will ensure that such tensions are resolved in a manner that is respectful of all parties. In doing so, World Athletics will, when drafting Rules and Regulations, abide by the principles set out in this Policy and in accordance with its commitment to the highest standards of ethics and governance.

Reporting

Concerns about human rights in Athletics can be raised with the relevant Member Federation or Area Association. Reports can also be made to World Athletics' Compliance and Risk Officer, who can be contacted on compliance@worldathletics.org.

Resources

Set out below you can find resources about human rights and World Athletics' commitment to protecting human rights in Athletics.

- The UN Declaration of human rights can be found [here](#)
- The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child can be found [here](#)
- The UN Guiding Principles on business and human rights can be found [here](#)
- The UN Global Compact can be found [here](#)
- The International Labour Organisation's Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work can be found [here](#)
- World Athletics Constitution can be found [here](#) (See Book A1)
- Integrity Code of Conduct can be found [here](#) (See Book D1.1)
- World Athletics Strategy can be found [here](#)
- World Athletics Safeguarding Rules can be found [here](#) (See Book D1.2)

Review

This Policy was approved by the Council on 08 December 2023 and shall be kept under regular review.



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www.worldathletics.org

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