

The Sport and Human Rights Committee

Origin

the creation of the Sport and Human Rights Committee was a response to a twofold need:

- To combat all forms of hatred, rejection, exclusion and disrespect, both on and off the pitch.

This means focusing on the ethical practice of sport.

- Enabling everyone, whatever their situation, age, social condition, gender, origin or religion, to benefit from adapted and accessible sport.

A health issue

Numerous studies around the world show a general decline in physical abilities among young people and, in the long term, a decrease in healthy life expectancy. The causes are well known, so there is no need to revisit them.

Our aim was to seek out and promote all initiatives that encourage participation in physical activities among the most diverse groups of people, particularly those who are furthest removed from such activities.

Hence a unifying objective:

to enable everyone, regardless of their situation, age, social status, gender, origin or religion, to benefit from physical activity and sports that are adapted and accessible.

Guaranteeing access to sport for all is a matter of social justice.

Combating all forms of discrimination in and through sport is the "raison d'être" of our committee, but also of the Parliamentary Alliance, which met yesterday in Paris and with which we are working.

there are many forms of discrimination. Age, gender, origin, abilities or economic means should never be barriers. But we see that sport is more difficult to access for people in fragile economic situations, migrants and people with disabilities.

CH. SAINT-LEZER AEDE-France

For people with disabilities It is worth noting the impact that the Paralympic Games have had on the recognition of sport for all.

The showcase was magnificent and it enabled the head of the Olympic Games to say: *'For people with disabilities, there will be a post-Paralympic Games era.'*



The realisation that adapted sports are possible regardless of disability is a first victory.

What is the reality?

A highly structured organisation

In each country, there is a specific federation recognised at government level. Example in France: French Handisport Federation (FFH) or French Federation of Adapted Sport (FFSA) or a federation for blind people. Depending on the country, these organisations report to the Ministry of Health or the Ministry of Sport.

What is the reality?

At the same time, many of the sports federations affiliated with the Olympic movement have developed adapted practices.

French Tennis Federation (FFT) → wheelchair tennis

French Basket-Ball Federation (FFBB) → wheelchair BB

French Handball Federation (FFH) → wheelchair HB

French Rugby Federation (FFR) → wheelchair rugby ('Murderball')

French Football Federation (FFF) → 5-a-side football (blind), 7-a-side football (mental disability)

French Sailing Federation (FFV) → disabled sailing

French Golf Federation (FFG) → Parakids golf

But.. still a largely underdeveloped practice..

Less than one in two (47%) say they have been active at least once in the past year, and 32% say they have been active once a week on average.

Three out of five disabled people aged 15 to 64 do not engage in regular physical or sporting activities for leisure.

...depending on the qualification...

Disabled people of working age (15-64) with a qualification equivalent to or higher than a baccalaureate degree are more likely to participate in sports than disabled people with a qualification lower than a baccalaureate degree: 50% of those with at least a high school diploma report regular participation, compared to 39% of others.

What are the obstacles?

A problem of accessibility to facilities

According to the sports facilities census, in 2024, only half of the 155,900 sports facilities (52%) are declared to be accessible to people with motor disabilities.

A problem of specialised coaching

Qualifications and training courses for sports instructors working with people with disabilities exist, but are still underutilised.

A problem of cost

A wheelchair for basketball costs €3,000, which is the budget for the entire season for the youth teams at my club.

What are the obstacles?

A problem of information and media coverage

Most people are not aware of what is available.

Balance work and sporting activities

The difficulties add up, as do the costs when you have to combine the two.

A health problem

in the survey conducted in France, this is a reason often cited

Some ideas...

On accessibility

the solution lies at the state level. It is a political choice. For example, in the Netherlands, 100% of station and metro platforms are accessible to people with disabilities.

On organisation

It is not feasible to require every sports association to have a disabled sports section. It is at the level of the local authority or group of sports associations that the necessary facilities and qualified supervision can be provided.

Furthermore, it is necessary to promote training in sports coaching professions for disadvantaged groups (elderly people, people with disabilities). This is a prerequisite for the introduction of a specialist adapted physical activity instructor in establishments reserved for senior citizens and in centres for people with disabilities.

Some ideas...

In terms of the range of activities on offer

Develop mixed activities and promote those that already exist (wheelchair handball, golf, etc.).

Combine a Paralympic competition with an able-bodied competition (athletics championship).

Encourage local authorities to improve access to sports facilities, in particular
by extending opening hours and opening facilities during school holidays.

Some ideas...

On the financing of adapted sport

Online sports betting reached €6 billion in the first half of the year in France. It is necessary and moral that taxes on these bets be significantly increased and that this supplement be devoted to adapted sport.