



“For more safe territories
through sport”

**Ombudsman's office for the
protection of the right to sport**



Defensoría
del Pueblo
COLOMBIA

#NosUnenTusDerechos

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INTRODUCTION

The Deputy Ombudsman's Office for the Protection of the Right to Sports was created with the purpose of helping rebuild the social tissue of the country, given that the dynamics of sports facilitate the creation of new interpersonal relationships that can bring Colombians closer together in the reconciliation process.

Through sports is possible to have meeting, recognition, and acceptance spaces, which makes it the ideal medium to implement educational programs focused on building a culture of peace and peaceful societies.

Sports is the best tool for building trust, coexistence and peace. We will be tireless in its promotion and in the recovery of spaces for our society to flourish hand in hand with children and adolescents who find in sports, inspiration, challenges, and growth.

Carlos Camargo Assis
Ombudsman

PREVENTION COMES FIRST

Practicing a sport, manifesting through art, learning strategies for dialogue and recognition of diversity are some of the alternatives that communities have at hand to strengthen the respect for individual and collective rights. This is the same purpose of the Ombudsman's Office: to protect, defend, promote, and disseminate the human rights of Colombians.

This is why, from the Office for the Protection of the Right to Sports, we have set ourselves the important task of promoting and disseminating the right to sports, recreation and the use of leisure time, in the most remote and vulnerable areas of the national territory.

To do so, we rely on the Early Warning System [EWS]¹, which helps us to identify communities where there is a greater risk of human rights and international humanitarian rights violations. Thus, we support institutional action and help strengthen the social tissue and promote peace through sports, recreation and the use of leisure time.

1

It is one of the main prevention tools of the Colombian State. It monitors and observes situations of risk of massive violations of human rights and international human rights (IHR). Threats are diverse and range from armed violence and forced displacement to sexual violence and extortion.

”

With this initiative, we seek to turn sports into a preventive tool that helps mitigate and, in the best of cases, eliminate human rights violations in the country.

HOW DO WE DO IT?



Once we identify the communities that need our support, we go to the field with our Goodwill Ambassadors for the Protection of the Right to Sports and, with the community, we redefine a sports and recreational scenario as a reminder that, despite adversity, sports is a safe zone and we can build our life project around it.



To reinforce this idea, the Ambassadors give talks, where they explain the importance that sports have had in their lives and, thanks to their example, they inspire us to follow our dreams and help us understand that discipline and perseverance are the path we must follow to make them come true. We also learn that talent is not enough, and that we need to set clear goals and work hard every day to achieve them, no matter how difficult it may seem or how many setbacks we may have.





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OLYMPISM

The concept of 'Olympism' was created by Pierre de Coubertin more than 120 years ago, and from that moment until now, its main objective is to demonstrate that sports can make us all better citizens, by combining mind, body, and spirit, promoting a better relationship between communities and nations.

Values Core: Olympism and the Olympic Movement

1 Excellence

It's about always giving the best of oneself, both on the playing field and in personal and professional life. It consists of doing one's best to win, but also for the joy of participating, achieving personal goals, striving to be and do the best every day, benefiting from the healthy combination of strong mind, body and will.

2 Friendship

It is based on considering sports as a tool that promotes mutual understanding among people around the world. The Olympic Games inspire people to overcome political, economic, gender, racial or religious differences.

3 Respect

This value incorporates respect for oneself, for one's own body, for rules and regulations, for others, for the sport and the environment. It is specifically related to fair play, the fight against doping and all unsportsmanlike and unethical behavior.

4 Non-discrimination

The Olympic Movement strives to ensure that sports are practiced without any form of discrimination.

5 Sustainability

The Olympic Movement creates programs that promote sustainable economic, social, and environmental development.

6 Humanism

The activities of the Olympic Movement are focused on people, ensuring that sports remain a human right.

7 Universality

Sports belongs to everyone. In all its decisions and actions, the Olympic Movement considers the universal impact that sports can have on individuals and society.

8 Solidarity

The Olympic Movement is committed to the development of programs that, together, respond to social problems.

9 Partnership among sports, education, and culture.

The Olympic Movement is committed to promoting the spirit of Olympism: the point where sports, culture, and education converge.

DID YOU KNOW THAT



The United Nations General Assembly considers that sports is an agent of action and change, and therefore has the potential to promote peace, respect, tolerance, and solidarity in the world.



Sports is a right recognized worldwide and the most important sporting event is the Olympic Games [Olympic Charter].



In Colombia, sports, recreation, and the use of leisure time is a fundamental right that can be enforced by the State [Art. 52 of the Political Constitution].



The Ombudsman's Office has a group of lawyers with expertise in sports law that can help you when you need it.



Several of the best Colombian athletes, such as Catherine Ibargüen, Juan Guillermo Cuadrado or Luis Díaz, to name a few, come from areas with high social risk, but thanks to their efforts they are now recognized worldwide.



The Ministry of Sports reported that between 2020 and 2022 the number of complaints of harassment, abuse and some type of aggression in sports environments doubled, and that 62 % of the victims are women and 35 % are minors.



In the Ombudsman's Office we can help you if you have been a victim of sexual abuse or harassment, and you can contact us through our virtual channels or in person at the 42 regional offices in the country.



The Ombudsman's Office created the Fan Ombudsman's Office with the purpose of promoting affirmative actions, both among fans and popular and traditional sports clubs, with coexistence initiatives to minimize violence associated with soccer and to guarantee safe conditions for those attending sporting events.



Sports is good for your health, gives you discipline and keeps you away from drugs and bad company.



LEARN MORE ABOUT THE INTEGRATING HISTORY OF SPORTS IN THE WORLD.

On June 24, 1995, a post-apartheid South Africa was united forever by a rugby victory of the South African "Springboks" against the mighty "All Blacks" of New Zealand. A result that, in the words of their then captain, was not for the 60,000 fans in the stadium, but for the 43 million South Africans.

It turns out that not so long ago, black South Africans hated rugby and the Springboks because it was the white team and sport. They always cheered the opponents against them. There was only one black player on the team, Chester Williams. It was a black race eager for revenge for decades of repression and a frightened white race. However, Nelson Mandela, President of South Africa, who was convinced of the integrating role played by the 1992 Barcelona Olympic Games, decided to meet with the captain of the South African team, François Pienaar, to ask for his help and together they would bring about the union of a country.



Mandela asked Pienaar to travel the entire territory giving rugby lessons, with special attention to the peripheral regions. His mission was to bring the players of an underappreciated national team closer to the communities, to begin to change perceptions of each other, to recognize each other, to transform the common view of racial differences and to make them feel part of the same place.

As the tournament progressed, the black hatred towards the "Springboks" diminished, until in the final the great majority wanted the victory of the South African team. But the icing on the cake was missing. There is no glory without victory. On the day of the final, the "Springboks" did not have it easy, they were a good team, but they had little to do against the powerful New Zealand team, the figurehead of the World Cup. The match was a titanic struggle in which South Africa played fierce defense and took full advantage of their star players, achieving victory with a score of 15-12. The madness was unleashed in the stadium and in all the streets of the country.

Blacks and whites celebrated the victory together. Apartheid had finally come to an end. That victory was more than the triumph of a national team. It was the triumph of reconciliation and the consolidation of national unity.



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DECLAROLOGUE

RIGHTS



As you now know, sports, recreation and the use of leisure time is a fundamental right in Colombia, and you can demand its fulfillment before the country's judicial authorities.

But at the Ombudsman's Office we want to go one step further, because we are convinced that you and I are an important part of the change.

Want to know how? Help us to fulfill the following rights and duties the next time you practice sports. If you help us, you will see how together we can transform our reality.

10

- On the court we are all equal.
- The court belongs to everyone.
- Sport belongs to everyone.
- The sport is transparent and corruption-free.
- The sport is played cleanly, quietly and without cheating.
- Sport and recreation are practiced with respect for human dignity, in an inclusive, equitable and safe manner.
- Sport is a combination of mind, body and will, where life and personal integrity are preserved.
- Sport is fun and recreational.
- The practice of sports and recreation should be undertaken with full respect for human dignity.
- Sports foster peaceful coexistence, respects differences and is a vehicle for resolving disputes.



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DECLARACIÓN DE DERECHOS

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- Treat all persons using the court with respect.
- We must keep ourselves informed about the recreational and sports facilities we use and promote their proper use.
- We all work together to build better sports plans and programs; therefore, it is necessary to participate in the decisions of the National Sports System (SND, for its acronym in Spanish).
- It is the duty of all SND stakeholders to promote a culture of zero tolerance for corruption in the administration of resources and sports venues, with transparent processes and permanent accountability.
- Sport is practiced free of doping, without cheating or any other practice that undermines fair play.

- The practice of sports and recreation should be free of gender-based violence (GBV), racism, hatred, discrimination or intolerance, respecting diversity, and differences.
- Conditions must be promoted to develop the physical and emotional capacity of all those who use the courts.
- Policies and programs that have a positive impact on the life and health of athletes should be promoted and developed.
- Sports venues must be free of GBV, racism, hatred, discrimination, or intolerance based on diversity and difference, respecting the human dignity of athletes.
- Affirmative actions should be promoted to foster peaceful coexistence and respect for differences and diversity based on free choice.

These are our rights and duties, but what are yours?

We want to hear from you! Send us a text and help us grow the list; we're eager to hear what you think.



For the Ombudsman's Office, to the extent that the exercise of the right to sports, recreation and free time is fully guaranteed, it is more likely that the threshold of guaranteeing rights in Colombia will grow and that the country's progress will be made under the principles of universality, interdependence, indivisibility and progressiveness, which characterize the human rights-based approach.



