

IPACS Benchmark Guidelines

Updated 5 November 2021

IPACS Benchmark B6 – The organisation makes public all decisions regarding breaches of rules or codes including sanctions, as well as pending cases where permitted

Definitions

- Decisions regarding breaches of rules or codes – the current status or decisions reached regarding cases where one or more individuals or organisations are charged with breaching the organisation's rules (for example, a disciplinary process resulting in a suspension)

Introduction to this Benchmark and its significance

- It is important that the organisation shows that the rules and codes are enforced and that breaches result in appropriate action being taken
- Publishing such decisions and information about the process, in accordance with applicable privacy/ data protection rules, can help increase trust in the organisation among stakeholders, both internally and externally

Commentary on the action to be taken

- Decisions and/or pending cases should be published on a specific section of the website
- The list of decisions published should show active sanctions (such as suspensions); it is possible that suspensions or other historic sanctions may be removed from a published list once they are no longer in force
- If there are no such decisions or current sanctions, it may be helpful to note this on the website to demonstrate that information would be provided in the event of a case
- Legal advice may be needed as privacy rules can vary around the world; particular care is needed if there is associated law enforcement action
- Protection of the rights of victims should be considered at all times in decisions about the publication of disciplinary decisions

Investment requirement – limited – publication of existing information; legal advice may be needed on occasion

Guidance according to stage of organisation

Early stage

- The organisation publishes on its website a summary of decisions/sanctions in force with basic details, such as a summary table showing individuals or organisations who are suspended with the rule breach listed
- The organisation complies with applicable privacy laws (which may restrict the information that can be published, in some cases)

Developing

- The organisation publishes the decisions/sanctions currently in force, with further detail on the cases
- The organisation publishes full details of at least one case, such as the report from a disciplinary commission

Advanced

- The organisation publishes full details of every decision, in an appropriate manner, according to relevant regulations
- The organisation publishes pending cases, where permitted by regulations
- The organisation publishes an archive of previous decisions/sanctions

Good practice examples

International Federations (from June 2020)

- ITU: [Tribunal cases are published](#), including full, reasoned decisions. [Anti-doping cases](#) identify the basic facts and the period of ineligibility
- UWW: [All disciplinary decisions](#) are published on a specific section of the website
- World Rugby: [Full judicial decisions are published](#) on a designated section of the website and there are associated news stories
- ISU: [Disciplinary decisions](#) are published in full

Overall standard among International Federations:

- All 31 members of ASOIF published at least some form of summary decisions of cases

International

- International Olympic Committee: [Ethics Commission decisions published](#)

National Organisations

- Anti-Doping Authority of Portugal (ADOP): [List of sanctions for anti-doping rule violations](#)
- Sport Integrity Australia: [Disciplinary sanctions published](#)
- Aruba Olympic Committee: [Publication of sanctions for anti-doping rule violations](#)

Selected references

- [ASOIF GTF Questionnaire 2019-20](#), Indicator 3.7
- [SIGGS](#): Principle 1, Indicator 5: How would you define your organisation's sanctions system for dealing with cases of misconduct?
- Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, [Addendum to the report "Working towards a framework for modern sports governance"](#). Principle 3.2: Ethical and disciplinary control – Make public all decisions of disciplinary bodies and related sanctions

ASOIF indicator 3.7 – scoring definitions used in the 2019-20 assessment

- 0 – No
- 1 – Some information about decisions of disciplinary bodies and related sanctions published
- 2 – All decisions of disciplinary bodies and related sanctions published
- 3 – Full decisions of disciplinary bodies and related sanctions published
- 4 – Full decisions of disciplinary bodies and related sanctions published promptly with appropriate details and extra info (e.g. mutual recognition of decisions, disciplinary process)