

## **TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR IPACS TASK FORCE ON COOPERATION BETWEEN CRIMINAL JUSTICE AUTHORITIES AND SPORTS ORGANISATIONS**

### **Background of the assignment**

The International Partnership Against Corruption in Sport (IPACS) was established in 2017 as a multi-stakeholder initiative aimed at bringing together international sports organisations, governments, intergovernmental organisations and other relevant stakeholders to strengthen and support efforts to eliminate corruption risks and promote a culture of good governance in and around sport.

Coordinated by a Steering Committee, IPACS currently consists of governments, sports organisations and international bodies which, through expert Task Forces and an Annual General Conference, are focusing their efforts on fighting corruption in sport. More information about the work of IPACS can be found on [www.ipacs.sport](http://www.ipacs.sport).

At the IPACS Steering Committee meeting held in Paris on 1 July 2019, it was agreed to establish a fourth IPACS Task Force to identify gaps that weaken cooperation between law enforcement and criminal justice authorities and sports organisations, and to develop mechanisms to enhance such cooperation. The Steering Committee also accepted the recommendations and priorities as contained in the Report of the IPACS Expert Group Meeting (EGM): Measures to enhance cooperation between criminal justice authorities and sports organisations, which was held in Vienna, 6 June 2019. These included, among other priorities, the need to generate further awareness and policy recommendations specifically on the issue of enhancing effective and efficient cooperation between criminal justice authorities and sports organisations.

Since its inception, the Task Force contributed to the development of mechanisms that would enhance cross-sector cooperation, including the elaboration of reports on existing anti-bribery legislation<sup>1</sup>. During this period, the Task Force also strengthened collaboration with existing networks of law enforcement agencies and judicial authorities.

In recent years, the need to comprehensively respond to the threat to sport posed by corruption and other forms of crime by fostering effective cooperation between relevant criminal justice authorities and sports organisations at all levels has been increasingly recognised at the international level, including forums of the United Nations, European Union and the Council of Europe.<sup>2</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> See “[Tackling Bribery in Sport: an overview of relevant laws and standards](#)”, and “[Legal Approaches to Tackling Bribery in Sport](#)”

<sup>2</sup> See, for example, United Nations General Assembly, [Resolution A/79/L.10 “Sport as an enabler of sustainable development”](#), 5 November 2024; and Council of Europe, [18<sup>th</sup> Conference of Ministers responsible for Sport Resolution](#), 9 October 2024.

At the IPACS Steering Committee meeting held on 23 October 2025, it was agreed to update the Terms of Reference for the former Task Force 4, following the decision of the Steering Committee on 2023 to establish the IPACS Good Governance Task Force which replaced Task Forces 1, 2 and 3. Building from the previous Steering Committee decision to merge the former Task Forces 1, 2 and 3, it was decided that Task Force 4 should instead be referred to as the Task Force on Cross-Sector Cooperation. The decision to update the Terms of Reference for the former Task Force 4 also took into consideration the successes of the Task Force, and the areas of continued collaboration and synergies. Furthermore, the decision was made in accordance with Article 8 of the IPACS Governance Guidance, which states that “[t]he Task Forces will, over time, adapt and develop their focus, composition and working methods in line with the terms of reference and other decisions of the Steering Committee”.

### **Tasks to be performed by the Task Force:**

The tasks of the Task Force on cooperation between criminal justice authorities and sports organisations will be the following:

- Support the development of publications and/or tools which will contribute to enhancing cooperation between law enforcement, criminal justice authorities and sports organisations;
- Actively raise awareness within IPACS stakeholders’ networks on the importance of strengthening cooperation between law enforcement, criminal justice authorities and sports organisations to effectively fight corruption in and around sport;
- Encourage governments to facilitate information with sports organisations, in an efficient and secure manner, to support the effective investigation, prosecution and sanctioning of cases of corruption in sport;
- Enhance synergies between IPACS and existing networks of law enforcement, criminal justice authorities and anti-corruption experts;
- Consider the establishment of an information sharing mechanism between sports organisation representatives and criminal justice authorities to ensure efficient and effective cooperation for the investigation of alleged cases of corruption in and around sport. Actively advocate for such an information sharing mechanism; and
- Effectively communicate the work of IPACS and increase the visibility of IPACS within governments, intergovernmental organisations and the sports movement in line with the fight against corruption in sport.

### **Composition and Working Methodology**

The composition of the Task Force will be drawn from and coordinated by Partners, as appropriate and decided by the Steering Committee. The Task Force may also consider inviting experts, including those from outside sports and public authorities, on an ad-hoc basis to participate in the Task Force.<sup>3</sup>

---

<sup>3</sup> In line with Article 8 of the [IPACS Governance Guidelines](#).

The composition of the Task Force will ensure balanced representation from international organisations, governments and sports organisations.

The Task Force's composition will be approved by the Steering Committee and should reflect a diversity of membership in terms of region, country size and development status.

For all the aspects relevant to the working methodology of the Task Force, the IPACS Governance Guidelines shall apply.

The frequency of the Task Force meetings and the total duration of the Task Force's work will be defined by the Steering Committee, which will be responsible for inviting partners to express their interest in joining the Task Force.

The Task Force is required to make regular reports concerning its activities to the Steering Committee at least once per year.