



## EGPA Workshop 'Sports & Integrity', 25/08/2016, 14u.15 – 15u.45

### **Context**

Starting from September 2016, a research project will be conducted at the Utrecht University on the meaning of integrity in sports (focusing on football). Previous research (e.g., Sport Governance Observer) has mainly focused on integrity policies and procedural measures to enhance and monitor integrity in sports organisations. However, such policy measures alone are not sufficient to effectively deal with current ethical challenges in sports. Therefore, this project aims to understand how practitioners in football agencies experience and define integrity. What does integrity mean in these agencies? How are norms discussed and negotiated? And what is the role of (social) media in defining and framing integrity issues in football?

We will particularly focus on how incidents of umpirage are dealt with. Why and how does an incident involving (assistant) referees become an integrity issue? How are these incidents covered by (social) media? And how does management of the football organization(s) at the local, regional and national level deal with these incidents? This project will allow us to advise managers in how they can enhance integrity of football (organisations).

### **Goal and content of the workshop**

This workshop aims to bring together high profile practitioners in sports/football agencies and international scholars in ethics and integrity to discuss the socially important matter of integrity in sports. Practitioners will benefit from discussing their ideas and thoughts with international experts on good governance and integrity in (public) organisations. Researchers are given the opportunity to gain more insight into how important players in sports/football understand and define integrity, which dilemmas they experience and which challenges they face concerning integrity management.

This workshop is set up as a panel session. The panel includes both practitioners and international scholars. Five topics will be discussed:

- (1) Which moral dilemmas do (managers of) sports organisations face?*
- (2) Is the meaning of integrity in sports and sports organisations different than in other types of organisations, and if so why?*
- (3) How is integrity in sports (organisations) nowadays threatened?*
- (4) How do managers deal with (negative) media coverage concerning integrity incidents?*
- (5) Which strategies can be used to effectively deal with integrity incidents within sports/football organisations?*

The panel members will reflect on each of these topics, based on their expertise in practice or research, after which the audience will be invited to give input in a plenary discussion.

To enable an open dialogue, we will ask all participants to treat the information that is discussed during this workshop confidential. An overall report that summarizes the main arguments in the discussion will be distributed among the participants after the workshop.

***Practical information***

- Location: USBO, Bijlhouwerstraat 6, Utrecht, room 1.02
- Date and timing: 25th August 2016, 14.15 – 15.45
- Please register by sending an email to Kim Loyens: [k.m.loyens@uu.nl](mailto:k.m.loyens@uu.nl)

We are convinced that this workshop will stimulate an important and inspiring debate between practitioners and scholars about the challenges of integrity in sports/football. Therefore, we are looking forward to welcoming you at the EGPA workshop in August!

Kind regards,

The Utrecht University research team 'Sports & Integrity'

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*Dr. Leonie Heres*  
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