

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY
FUNDACIÓN RED DEPORTE Y COOPERACIÓN



**RED
DEPORTE**

hope in motion



**INTERNATIONAL SAFEGUARDS
FOR CHILDREN IN SPORT**

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1. DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES

Red Deporte, through this Protection Policy, aims to promote behaviors consistent with the protection and best interests of the child, established in the Convention on the Rights Children and to advance as a safe organization for children. That is why it does everything possible to prevent, respond and report any case of violence against children. This Policy sets out the values, principles, and steps to follow in order to fulfill our commitment to protect children.

Red Deporte considers it essential that its workers and all the people and institutions that work or collaborate with the organization are aware of and committed to the protection of children and that they take the best interests of the child as a priority.

This is a statement through which a clear guideline is defined that is valid for both the professional and personal life of all employees and partners of Red Deporte.

2. VISION, MISSION AND VALUES OF THE ORGANIZATION

MISSION: Create sports spaces that generate education, health and integration.

VISION: Sport helps fulfill the dreams and aspirations of children and young people with less opportunities.

VALUES: We believe in illusion, joy, motivation, the capacity for effort and perseverance as determining factors for the development of youth, peace and prosperity.

3. LEGAL SCOPE

The Child Protection Policy (CPP) of Red Deporte is affected and in turn is linked to the most elementary international treaties for the protection of children. In addition, we place special emphasis on highlighting the importance at an international and humanitarian level, on the importance of play and sports as part of the fundamental rights of the child.

According to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, a child is any person under 18 years of age (unless under the applicable law they have reached the age of majority beforehand). Article 19 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child establishes: *The States Parties shall adopt all appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to protect the child against all forms of physical or mental harm or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, ill-treatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse, while the child is in the custody of the parents, a legal representative or any other person in charge of the child.*

Such protection measures should include, as appropriate, effective procedures for the establishment of social programs in order to provide the necessary assistance to the child and those who care for him, as well as for other forms of prevention and for the identification, notification, referral to an institution, investigation, treatment and subsequent observation of the above-described cases of child abuse, and, as appropriate, judicial intervention.

Violence against children is never justifiable and must be rejected and fought forcefully, even in its apparently milder forms such as physical punishment. In addition to having negative consequences on the present and future development and well-being of children, it connotes the denial of the dignity that boys and girls have as human beings.

In the field of child protection, we put sports, games and play in the foreground, as a workspace for our organization and a direct link with the child. From Red Deporte, and as part of our CPP, we unfold this protection from two main areas.

a. INTERNATIONAL SCOPE ON SPORTS AND GAME

The consideration of sport as a child's right is something that today continues to be questioned in some sectors of the social sphere, we think that by not granting it the importance it deserves in some cases, in another as a simple neglect of the importance of this facet in the life of the child and the young person. It is simply considered the tail of the protection scopes. For this reason, from Red Deporte, we join the legal framework of law and international conventions that protect the child as a subject of the right to sport and play, and whose content we underline as an area of protection of children within reach of Red Deporte.

The term Sport together with Development can have two different meanings: "Sport Development" or "Sport for Development". The difference between the two lies in how sport is treated: whether as

an end in itself or as a means. Development is understood not only as economic growth, but also sustainable and focused on the development of people. It is a process that strengthens their expectations: increased life expectancy, health, education and access to the resources needed to have a decent standard of living. Development can be applied to individuals, communities, nations or international movements.

Sports Development: actions that increase sports infrastructure (including human resources and technical means), with the aim of increasing participation and technical improvement in sports practice. (International Paralympic Committee, 2008)

Sport for Development: activities and programs that use sport as an instrument to achieve development objectives in terms of poverty reduction, education, health, economic and civil rights and conflict resolution. Sport for Development (DPD) is based on the principles of equality, peace and inclusion, with an emphasis on increasing access to resources and improving the quality of life in developing countries (International Paralympic Committee, 2008).

However, distinguishing the two can in some cases be difficult.

Based on the principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence, respecting the Code of Conduct in Humanitarian Action of the International Red Cross Movement.

- In the International Charter for Sport and Physical Education (UNESCO, 1978, Art. 1) the practice of sport is recognized as “a fundamental right for all”.
- Reports from the Group of Experts and the United Nations General Secretariat corroborate this:
 - "Access and participation in sport and play are recognized as a human right" (UN Inter-Agency Working Group for the development of Sport and Peace, 2003. P.5).
 - “Participation in sport is recognized as a Human Right” (UN General Secretariat p.16).
- The Olympic Charter, which contains the Fundamental Principles of Olympism, recognizes sport as a Human Rights (International Olympic Committee, 2007, p.11).

However, the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights does not recognize sport as a Human Right.

Supports that verify the condition of sport as a Human Right

- **Two articles of the International Convention for the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CADAW)** refer to sport.

Article. 10. *“The Signing States shall take the appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in order to ensure their equal rights with men in the field of education and in particular ensure ... (g) The same opportunities to actively participate in sport and physical education ”.*

Article 13. *“ The Signing States shall take appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in other areas of social and economic life in order to ensure, on the basis of equality between women and men, the same rights, and in particular: (...) -The right to participate in recreational and sports activities and all aspects of cultural life “*

Article 31 of the *Convention for the Rights of Children* This Article does not mention the word sport, although it is clear that play and recreational activity is a child's right.

Article 31. *Convention of Children's Rights. (United Nations General Assembly, November 20, 1989). "The Signing States recognize the right of the child to rest and free time, to participate in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural and artistic life."*

Resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly on the potential of sport, proclaiming the General Assembly 2005 as the **International Year of Sport and Physical Education (IYSPE)** - and the **Declaration of Magglingen** (Red Deporte was the only Spanish entity present and signatory of the Magglingen Declaration in December 2002).

- The International Working Group on Sport for Development and Peace was created in 2004 during the Olympic Games in Athens for a period of 4 years. Its mandate consisted of *“the articulation and adoption of policies and recommendations to promote sport and physical activity in development programs and foreign assistance”* (GIT - DPD, brochure 2004).
- *A/RE/58/5 "Sport as a means to promote education, Development and Peace”*
- *A/RES/58/6 "Building a better and more peaceful world through sport and the Olympic Ideal”*

- A/RES/59/10 *“Sport as a means to promote education, health development and peace ”*
- The Magglingen Call to Action was adopted at the *“2nd Magglingen Conference for Development through Sport: Moving to a New Stage”*. December 4-6, 2005, Switzerland.

Leaving behind the discussion of whether or not sport is a fundamental right, it is unanimously recognized that *“sport is a powerful, effective and low-cost means to achieve the achievement of a combination of several fundamental rights”*. (See point 10.1)

- United Nations International Working Group on Sport for Development and Peace (2008, p.8.).

b. Scope of intervention in programs

Once the legal field has been reviewed and based on statements of elementary principles, we want to highlight the protection of children in our activity, sports - play - educational, and as such, highlight the following areas of action

- **PARTICIPATION.** All children have the right to participate in play and sports related activities, extensible to all areas of social protection. Taking special importance the participation of all children in egalitarian conditions in activities and sporting events, rejecting an exclusive and competitive perspective when the cost is the exclusion of the children in a disproportionate matter from events and competitions. All coaches and monitors will concede time of play in equality, to all children, above their ability and sporting expertise.
- **RESPECT:** There will not be any type of discrimination in recreational - sports - educational activities, due to gender, race, origin, religion, political ideas, sexual orientation, nationality, culture or any other reason. All Red Deporte monitors undertake not to promote violence in sports activities and treat boys and girls in a respectful and equal manner. Respect extends to all areas of the child's life, including any type of abuse or violence of a sexual nature.
- **SURVEILLANCE:** All monitors will pay special attention to the physical and mental state of the child, adapting the activity to their characteristics and circumstances, and in no case putting their physical and mental health at risk.

All these forms of protection reach monitors, educators, program managers and the children themselves, highlighting the importance of not inflicting any type of violence on children and young people of different ages.

In addition, other forms of violence against children are included:

1. *Neglect or negligent treatment*: lack of attention to the physical, psychological and emotional needs of boys and girls.
2. *Psychological violence*: any form of verbal and psychological aggression that affects the emotional well-being of children and adolescents such as threats, insults, humiliation, ridicule or isolation.
3. *Physical violence*: most obvious form of abuse. It includes both intentional and unintentional acts that can cause serious or fatal physical consequences. It is manifested by blows, cuts, burns, mutilations, shakes or beatings, among others.
4. *Child sexual abuse and sexual exploitation*: involves the submission of a child or adolescent to sexual behaviors by a person (adult or other minor), in a context of inequality of power, usually through deception, force, lying or manipulation. It has very serious consequences on the development and emotional, psychological and psychosexual well-being of the minor, which can be extended over time.
5. *Bullying and cyberbullying*: bullying violence between peers that consists of a behavior carried out by an individual, or a group, which is repeated over time to hurt, harass, threaten, scare or mess with another person with the intention of causing harm. It is different from other aggressive behaviors because it involves an imbalance of power that leaves the victim unable to defend themselves.

Cyberbullying is a form of harassment that involves the use of mobile phones (texts, calls, video clips), the internet (email, social networks, instant messaging, chat, web pages) or other information and communication technologies to deliberately harass, insult, threaten or intimidate someone. The peculiarity of cyberbullying is that a single attack that is recorded and uploaded to the internet is considered cyberbullying due to the possibility of reproducing it in an innumerable way and its potentially global audience.

6. *Torture and inhuman or degrading treatment*: refers to acts of violence against a child or adolescent with the purpose of forcing him to confess or extrajudicially punish him for illegal or criminal conduct.
7. *Harmful practices*: certain forms of violence against children that are common in some societies or cultures or traditions and are contrary to respect for children's rights, such as female genital mutilation, violent initiation rites or forced marriage.

4. OBJECTIVES

The objective of the CPP is to create the conditions to promote, protect and fulfill the rights of boys and girls and generate the best conditions for their integral development, which includes their right to protection against any form of violence. We must create optimal and safe spaces and environments for the full development of boys and girls, spaces in which affective treatment prevails, free from any form of violence, which encourages their autonomy and participation. The objectives of this policy are:

- Guaranteeing that all the people who work or have any type of relationship with Red Deporte understand, accept and support the fulfillment of their responsibilities regarding the good treatment of boys and girls.
- Guaranteeing that the procedures for reporting and responding to a situation of violence against children are clear and known to all workers and people who have any relationship with Red Deporte.
- Promoting a protective culture towards childhood in professional and personal life.

The workers, people or institutions associated with Red Deporte are committed to guarantee that:

- They will give the utmost importance to any matter related to the protection of children.
- They will adopt measures to ensure the protection of boys and girls.
- They will support children, employees or other people who report situations in which there is some form of violence.

- They will act appropriately and effectively in the investigation of any possible mistreatment, abuse or exploitation, as well as in the process of detection, attention or referral of these cases.
- Its basic principle in the process of protecting children is to ensure the “best interests of the minor”.
- They will listen to and take into account the views and needs of children.
- They will work together with parents, caregivers or other professionals to guarantee the protection of children.

5. SOCIAL AND LABOR REACH

This Policy applies to the following groups and people

- All Red Deporte workers, employers, local staff, service providers, trainees and volunteers.
 - Collaborating personnel, service providers and counterparts, as long as they maintain a direct relationship with Red Deporte.
 - Personnel with direct and indirect links: any person who has been linked to the work of Red Deporte, must comply with the CPP of our organization, to start or be able to continue with the work or activities linked to our organization.

6. IMPLEMENTATION

Our commitment to make Red Deporte a safe organization for children will be carried out through the following steps consisting of notifying and informing the Red Deporte management of any anomaly or notable event that affects the CPP.

Who can notify?

- Workers, collaborators (trainees, volunteers, service providers ...).
- The children and adolescents who participate in our activities.

- Mothers, fathers, relatives of the children who participate in our activities and staff of the educational centers in which we intervene.

What should be notified?

- Any situation in which there is evidence that a worker and / or collaborator (interns, volunteers, service providers ...) has breached the organization's Code of Conduct.
- Any doubts that a worker and / or collaborator (interns, volunteers, service providers ...) may have regarding CPP and / or Code of Conduct.

When should you notify?

- As soon as possible since the incident took place.
- In case there is a question or concern at any time.

To whom and how should it be informed?

- In the emails and telephones of Red Deporte
- Contact Email: rdc@redeporte.org | www.redeporte.org

7. CONCLUSIONS

This document is intended to be a firm support and of general application for all the activity of Red Deporte. Beyond the professional scope that concerns our organization, it also aims to be a declaration of principles so that the child is taken into account for what he is, a being susceptible to the maximum legal, social and institutional protection, due to the total vulnerability of his person in the first years of life.

We also want to emphasize the importance of sports, games and free time in the child's life, especially in contexts of poverty, where their vulnerability is doubly threatened by a social context that, in many cases, does not offer the desired future prospects, and in which violence at various levels has been present.

Finally, we want to emphasize the importance of working with the child in a context of play and free time, in which they develop their personality and function in various spheres of life, and attributes such as effort, teamwork, perseverance or the pursuit of objectives. This is also a right, and for the protection of the child to be truly effective, it is mandatory that the playful-sporting aspect is integrated into their routine. And it matters a lot how, for that reason, all workers and social environment in which Red Deporte operates are called to pay special attention to child care under equal conditions for boys and girls, as it is mandatory to emphasize. May this Child Protection Policy inspire other organizations, so that they also integrate sport as part of their regulations.

Red Deporte, member of
***International Safeguards for Children
in Sport initiative***

