

---

## FOREWORD

The Council of Europe is undoubtedly the body, which during forty years (since 1967) has made the most substantial contribution to paving the way for a European sports model. It was the first international intergovernmental organisation to take initiatives and to offer an institutional framework for the development of sport at European level and to establish numerous legal instruments.

The Council of Europe is aware that sport has a distinctive role to play as a force for social integration, tolerance and understanding. It is open to all, regardless of age, language, religion, culture, or ability. It is the single most popular activity in modern society. Sport provides the opportunity to learn to play by commonly agreed rules, to behave admirably both in victory and in defeat and to develop, not only the physical being, but also social competences and ethical values. Its contribution to education is increasingly acknowledged. Sport has a key contribution to bring to the promotion of the core values of the Council of Europe: democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

The Council of Europe continues to play an active role in European sports affairs in order to establish international standards for states parties to the European Cultural Convention, to assist public authorities, in co-operation with national sports organisations, to promote and develop sport that is open to everyone, without discrimination, and run in a healthy, safe and ethical environment. The upcoming Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport is expected to strengthen the intergovernmental co-operation within the Council of Europe and to become an enhanced platform of co-operation between the public authorities and the Sport movement.

The present publication entitled *The Council of Europe and Sport: Basic Documents* is the second volume in the Asser series of collections of documents on international sports law, containing material on the intergovernmental (inter-state) part of international sports law. The first volume was devoted to the European Union. In previous other publications, NGO material, i.e., statutes and constitutions, doping rules and regulations and arbitral and disciplinary rules and regulations of the international sports organisations were published.

A reference book such as this is an extremely valuable tool for both legal practice and research purposes in the field of sport, law and policy, in this case focusing on the Council of Europe.

Strasbourg, November 2006

Dr. Ralf-René WEINGÄRTNER  
*Director for Youth and Sport  
Council of Europe*