

Berlin, June 22, 2026

Mrs. Aydan Özoğuz,
Chairwoman, Deutscher
Bundestag Ausschuss für
Sport und Ehrenamt
Platz der Republik 1
11011 Berlin
Germany

Mr. Jens Lehman,
Mr. Artur Auerhammer,
Mr. Fritz Guntzler,
Mr. Stephan Mayer,
Mr. Dieter Stier
Mr. Jörn König
Mr. Thomas Korell
Mr. Lars Schieske
Mr. Jürgen Coße
Mrs. Bettina Lugk
Mrs. Dr. Ophelia Nick
Mrs. Tina Winklmann
Mr. Christian Gorke
Mr. Olav Gutting
Mr. Dr. Carsten Linneman
Mr. Florian Müller
Mr. Johannes Steiniger
Mr. Christian Freiherr
Mr. Andreas Bleck
Mr. Edgar Naujok
Mr. Bastian Treuheit
Mr. Sanar Abdi
Mr. Daniel Betterman
Mrs. Sonja Eichwede
Mr. Helge Limburg
Mr. Sascha Müller
Mr. Jorrit Bosch

Re: Request for Mandatory Safe Sport Compliance in Germany

Dear Members of the Committee on Sport and Volunteering of the German Bundestag,

We are the [Sport & Rights Alliance \(SRA\)](#), a global coalition of leading civil society organizations committed to promoting the rights and wellbeing of those most affected by sport and to bring a world where sport is an authentic force for good. Through the Athletes Network for Safer Sport – a survivor-led global network whose Advisory Council consists exclusively of athletes, survivors, and whistleblowers with lived experience – we represent the voices of those who have been directly impacted by abuse in sport.

With this mandate and our extensive experience [researching](#), [reporting](#) and [advocating](#) to promote the rights and wellbeing of those most affected by abuse in sports, **we write in support of the demands of athlete survivors of abuse in Germany with regards to Safe Sport.**

Over the last couple of years, sport has increasingly recognized its responsibility to protect athletes and [address systemic incidents](#) of abuse and harassment. As a result, safeguarding measures and procedures have expanded globally.

On that front, we commend the German federal government for its leadership, including the [creation of a Safe Sport Entity](#) with the Länder and the introduction of the new [Sports Funding Act](#). The establishment of statutory baseline standards for national elite sport funding marks an important milestone, ensuring that resources are directed to sports organizations committed to strengthening athletes safety and, consequently, enhancing athletic performance.

It is important to note, however, that for these measures to be truly effective rather than merely performative, it is imperative to guarantee mandatory compliance. We have learned from many cases in the U.S., Brazil, United Kingdom, Canada, Australia and more that self-declarations are insufficient to ensure efficiency; often resulting in policies that are neither fully enacted nor properly monitored. As a consequence, athletes remain unsafe, while sports organizations continue to operate with excessive autonomy.

In order to be truly effective, safeguarding measures and procedures require clear compliance rules, independent and fit for purpose reporting and investigative mechanisms, a disciplinary authority and strict consequences for non-compliance.

Through taking the next step and demanding mandatory compliance from German national sports bodies, Germany will significantly improve its safeguarding landscape, including by expanding reporting pathways for athletes impacted by interpersonal violence. Given that the country already ties public funding to anti-doping rules, this act will further demonstrate Germany's commitment to sports integrity more broadly.

While we acknowledge the complexity and nuances related to the topic of harassment and abuse, we stand in full support of the demands of [Athleten Deutschland](#), several relevant German safeguarding institutions including the [Betroffenenrat](#).

Lastly, we would like to emphasize that these are neither exceptional nor disproportional requests in any shape or form. Rather, they represent a necessary and courageous institutional step – and an opportunity to reaffirm Germany's commitment to protecting children, athletes and all participants across German sport.

We look forward to your response, remaining at your disposal and committed to constructive dialogue and would appreciate it if a response could be provided within the next two weeks. If you have any questions, we can be contacted by email at joanna@sportandrightsalliance.org

Yours sincerely,



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The undersigned organizations also support for this letter:

