



*University of Rijeka, Faculty of Law
Institute of Sports Law, Sports Policies and Sports Diplomacy
&
University of Rijeka, Centre for Sport*

Under the auspices of



Partners



Organise

9th Rijeka Sports Law, Sports Policies and Sports Diplomacy Day

**International scientific conference
Women, children and youth in sport – protection of
elementary human rights**

May 29, 2026

University of Rijeka, Faculty of Law – Blue Room & Online

Hahlić 6, HR-51000 Rijeka, Croatia



PROGRAM

09:30 – 10:00

Introductory speeches

- *Assoc. Prof. Vanja Smokvina (University of Rijeka, Faculty of Law, project head)*
- *Prof. dr. Dario Đerđa (University of Rijeka, Faculty of Law, dean)*
- *Prof. dr. Goran Hauser (University of Rijeka, rector)*
- *Morana Paliković Gruden (Commission for gender equality of the Croatian Olympic Committee, president)*
- *Iva Rinčić (City of Rijeka, mayor)*
- *Robert Matić (Primorje-Gorski kotar County, vice-prefect)*
- *Danijela Žagar (Ombudsman for Children, advisor)*
- *Višnja Ljubičić (Ombudsman for Gender Equality)*

Key-Note speech

10:00 – 10:20

*Prof. dr. Carmen Perez Gonzalez
(University Carlos III, Madrid, YUFE)
Protecting the Future: A Human Rights Framework for Female and Youth Athletes*

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10:20 – 10:40

*Assoc. Prof. Sandra Winkler & Assoc. Prof. Vanja Smokvina
(University of Rijeka, Faculty of Law)
Motherhood in Professional Sports: An Achievable Dream?*

10:40 – 11:00

*Prof. dr. Sandra Laleta & Assist. Prof. Karla Kotulovski
(University of Rijeka, Faculty of Law)
Female Athletes and Social and Legal Protection in the European and National Context*

11:00 – 11:20

*Helena Majer, mag. iur.
(University of Rijeka, Faculty of Law)
Motherhood on Timeout: Timing and Egg Freezing for Women in Sport*

11:30 – 12:00

Coffee break

12:00 – 12:20

*Prof. dr. Dalida Rittossa
(University of Rijeka, Faculty of Law)
Child Sexual Abuse in Sports Settings: An Oxymoron Reality*

12:20 – 12:40

*Prof. dr. Dražen Čular
(University of Split, Faculty of Kinesiology)
Chronological Age as a Hidden Barrier: Relative Age, Biological Maturity, and Invisible Discrimination in Youth Sport*

12:40 – 13:00 Prof. dr. Iza Razija Mešević
(University of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina & Prince Sultan University Riyadh, Saudi Arabia)
Children and e-sports with a special focus on children with disabilities

13:00 – 13:20 Iva Varvodić, dipl. iur.
(High Administrative Court of the Republic of Croatia, Senior court counsellor)
Advancing Gender Equity in Sport: Policy Evolution, Governance Framework and Institutional Practice in European and Global Aquatics

13:30 – 14:30 Round table:
The right to maternity, healthcare and protection of female athletes and the preservation of the right to compete

- Blanka Vlašić, multiple world and European champion and Olympic medalist (online)
- Barbara Đinović, Olympic champion from Paris 2024, world and European champion, president of the Athletes' Commission of the Croatian Olympic Committee
- Assist. Prof. Tihana Nemčić Bojić, celebrated football and futsal player, national team coach and scientist (University of Zagreb, Faculty of Kinesiology)
- Assoc. Prof. Vesna Vučemilović, president of the Committee for Family, Youth and Sports of the Croatian Parliament
- Morana Paliković Gruden, president of the Commission for gender equality of the Croatian Olympic Committee

Moderators: Assoc. Prof. Sandra Winkler & Assoc. Prof. Vanja Smokvina

14:30 Conclusion and lunch

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Organising and Program Committee

Assoc. Prof. Vanja Smokvina *(University of Rijeka, Faculty of Law)*, co-president; Morana Paliković Gruden *(Croatian Olympic Committee)*, co-president; Prof. dr. Carmen Perez Gonzalez *(University Carlos III, Madrid)*; Prof. dr. Richard Parrish *(Edge Hill University, UK)*

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