



REVIVING TRADITIONAL SPORTS

THE FINAL DECLARATION OF THE 1st ETHNOSPORT FORUM ANTALYA, 2018

The World Ethnosport Confederation hosted this first Forum under the theme of “Reviving Traditional Sports” in Antalya on February 17-18, 2018. Attended by more than 100 agencies and 200 delegates from 56 countries, the sessions of the Forum were focused on the following matters:

- Traditional Sports Getting Popular and Global
 - Sense of Belonging, Growing into Clubs and Challenges Suffered by Clubs of Traditional Sports
 - The Role of Ethnosports in Intergenerational and Intercultural Dialogue
 - Local Administrations and Traditional Sports
 - School-Based Sports, and Traditional Sports in Primary, Secondary and High Schools & Colleges
- The recommendations set forth in the Final Declaration prove that the aforementioned topics were meticulously tackled in line with the purpose of the forum, and the goal to introduce a roadmap to be followed by ethnosports was achieved. The forum is of capital importance to identify problems related to traditional sports, offer solutions and serve as a hub of acquaintance and gathering for people exerting efforts for traditional sports across the globe.

The final recommendations of the forum are listed as follows:

For traditional sports, one should focus on the fact that they are not just sports but a matter of traditions, identity and culture. Traditional and cultural diversity as well as peace and mutual understanding of nations should be promoted.

Collaborations among countries should be promoted by making use of opportunities offered by such a forum. The cooperation of countries involved in the process should designate what traditional sports are to be prioritized, globally recognized and equipped with certain rules. A standard set of rules should be established for traditional sports. The uniformity of rules should be established at least within each country or region.

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Research and practical centers should be established to carry out initiatives that would boost the scientific and academic infrastructure of traditional sports.

The World Ethnosport Confederation should introduce specialized committees (for training and science etc.) within its body. Referential books and guidelines should be published. A joint archive should be launched for traditional sports. Any book, file and document of such an archive should be open to online access.

One should encourage women to traditional sports and make sure they take part in them. Some traditional sports bring about national or gender-based limitations. Therefore, we should adopt a different approach based on concepts such as inclusiveness, equity, and justice.

A specific day of the year should be declared as the day of traditional sports, and a specific agenda should be set. A prestigious award should be handed out for traditional sports, and its recognition should be promoted by PR efforts.

Cities should be built in line with the way to hand down traditions, and facilities shall be established to allow for training and performance of traditional sports. Some clubs should lead the way for the process to grow into clubs. The experiences of leading clubs should set an example for new clubs for institutionalization. Some leagues should be introduced through public aid to make sure that such clubs survive.

One should not ignore any intergenerational relation to hand down traditional sports, and the importance of sentimental ties. Playgrounds shall be arranged in a way to allow for the performance of traditional sports, and the establishment of intergenerational ties.

One should keep in mind that feasts and festivals have a major function to hand down traditions, and embrace such events to integrate them into traditional sports. The cooperation of all the parties (athletes, clubs, local and central administrative bodies) involved should be promoted in accordance with common goals for traditional sports.

The relation between local administrations and traditional sports shall be independent, rational, systematic and institutional. Local administrations should feature the integration of traditional sports into festivals they hold, and make them a major part of such occasions. Local administrations should open museums and interactive exhibitions to display the culture of traditional games specific to their respective locations.



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Local clubs of traditional sports should be provided with tax exemption.

A traditional sports award show should be introduced to award the top athletes, trainers and local administrations. Some short and promotional movies should be shot with focus on the contributions of local administrations to traditional sports, and they shall set an agenda on the social media. Local administration should be briefed about the benefits of traditional sports for public health to make sure that they serve as a remedy for drug use, currently a major problem among youngsters, and for the ever-increasing crimes. Based on the educational background of students, traditional sports should be incorporated into the curriculum of primary, secondary and high schools & colleges as a part of theoretical and applied courses.

Students clubs of colleges and high schools should be promoted, and some facilities should be built in colleges to perform traditional sports.

The interest of young people in social media and digital technologies should be put to use to hand down traditional sports. Games should be classified and adapted in consideration of age ranges. On the other hand, one should not ignore the fact that children are likely to easily get bored of strict rules. Movies, TV series, documentaries, animated movies, cartons and video games should be put to use in order to attract young people and make traditional sports popular.

Young people playing traditional sports should be provided with convenience to get into colleges, and with a variety of scholarships for education. Upon graduation, new job opportunities should be created to employ them.

There should be cooperation with kids' clubs, nurseries, women and youth centers. Such centers should be equipped with traditional game materials, publications, books and guidelines etc.

Traditional sports should serve as a role model to build sports ethics against unfair competition, match-fixing and doping.

The refugee crisis that has expanded in the 21st century causes us to face the risk of extinction of the intangible cultural heritage. An inventory should be created for refugees in order to keep the memory alive and maintain local diversity.

The number of such forum and occasions that gather people with expertise should be increased, and such occasions should grow into annual events. Starting to organize a regional forum would be beneficial.

