

PRESS RELEASE

Between Record Fever and Ethical Collapse? The 7th World Summit on Ethics & Leadership in Sports Brings Cross-Sector Leaders to Basel

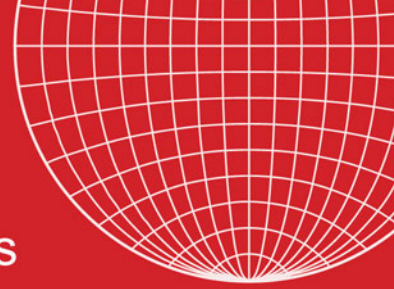
24 July 2025 | Volkshaus Basel, Switzerland – during the UEFA Women’s EURO Championship

Basel, 14 July 2025 - As the global race for records, influence, and power intensifies, where do we draw the line? On 24 July 2025, international leaders from sports, business, politics, and media will gather in Basel for the 7th World Summit on Ethics & Leadership in Sports to confront one critical question: *Can performance thrive without compromising ethics?* Under the theme “**The Future of Ethics in Sports, Business & Politics – When Values Meet Performance,**” the summit explores how we lead, compete, and succeed in a world that often rewards speed over substance, results over responsibility.

A Global Line-Up of Influential Voices – From Sport to Statehouse

Bringing together thought leaders from across sectors, the program features among others:

- **Dominique Blanc**, President, Swiss Football Association
 - **Martina Voss-Tecklenburg**, 4x UEFA Women’s EURO Champion, former Head Coach of Germany’s Women’s National Team
 - **Thomas Helmer**, UEFA Euro 1996 Champion, sports moderator (*panel moderator*)
 - **Honey Thaljeh**, FIFA spokesperson, co-founder of women’s football in Palestine
 - **Kevin Young**, Olympic gold medalist & long-time world record holder
 - **Jeannine Gmelin**, World Champion rower & Swiss Olympic athlete representative
 - **Aron D’Souza**, President, Enhanced Games
 - **Filippo Veglio**, Head of Social & Environmental Sustainability, UEFA
 - **Svyatoslav Yurash**, Member of Parliament, Ukraine – youngest MP in Ukrainian history
 - **Himanshu Gulati**, Member of Parliament, Norway – Vice Chair, Standing Committee on Education & Research
 - **Dr. Bernhard Heusler & Bernhard Burgener**, former Presidents, FC Basel
 - **Alex Frei**, former Swiss national team player
 - **Mustafa Atici**, Member of Parliament, Basel
 - **Philipp Kaufmann**, football manager (VfB Osnabrück, FC Basel)
 - **Sri Sri Ravi Shankar**, peace ambassador, WFEB-founder
- and many more. For the full speakers list visit <https://ethicsinsports.org/speakers>



The summit features keynotes, panel discussions, and interactive breakouts exploring how ethical leadership can be cultivated in some of the most performance-driven environments on earth.

Performance at Any Cost?

Ethical pressure isn't limited to elite sport. Studies show rising burnout among professionals, increasing reliance on stimulants, and growing mental health challenges in the workplace. While doping is policed in athletics, in business and politics, such "enhancements" remain largely unchecked. The summit shines a light on these parallels — and asks what a sustainable, values-based approach to performance really looks like.

Sport as a Social Force — and a Test of Values

Sport has always been more than a game. It is a reflection of our societies — a space where fairness, inclusion, and resilience can be embodied or betrayed. With the UEFA Women's EURO 2025 as a powerful backdrop, the summit will amplify the conversation on gender equity, access, and ethical leadership, both on and off the field.

Enhanced Games: Innovation or Ethical Breach?

One of the day's most debated panels will explore the emergence of the Enhanced Games, which allow athletes to use performance-enhancing substances under medical supervision. Advocates claim this is the future of human achievement. Critics see an ethical collapse. The session will pose the question plainly: What's left of fair play if everything is allowed—except restraint?

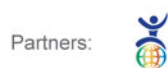
From Reflection to Recognition

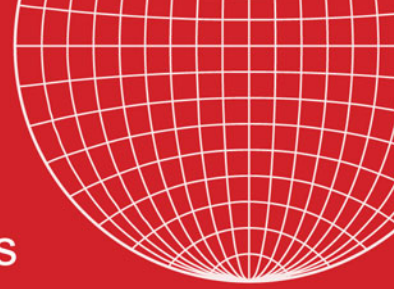
In the fast-paced worlds of sport, business, and leadership, mental clarity is as crucial as physical strength. As part of the summit, renowned peace ambassador and WFEB founder Sri Sri Ravi Shankar will lead a short "Mind Matters" session — guiding participants through a simple relaxation technique designed to calm the mind, sharpen focus, and create space for reflection. It offers a rare moment to pause and reset amidst the intensity of global performance demands.

The day concludes with the Ethics in Sports Award 2025, honoring outstanding individuals and organizations that have shown exceptional integrity and leadership in the world of sport.

A Platform for Cross-Sector Dialogue

Organized by the World Forum for Ethics in Business (WFEB) — a Belgium-based foundation with special consultative status at the United Nations — the summit builds on two decades of global engagement through collaborations with the European Parliament, the United Nations in Geneva, FIFA, the Max Planck Institute, Anti-Doping Norway, and FC Union Berlin.





WFEB is currently led by Dr. Sanjay Pradhan, former Vice President of the World Bank and former CEO of the Open Government Partnership, a global coalition of over 70 countries committed to transparency and good governance.

For more information and registration:

-> www.ethicsinsports.org

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