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Centar za sport  
Center for Sport



*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*



*In partnership with*



**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)*
- *Morana Paliković Gruden (Croatian Olympic Committee Assembly member & Commission for gender equality of the president)*
- *Danijela Žagar (Ombudsman for Children, Advisor)*
- *Višnja Ljubičić (Ombudsman for Gender Equality)*
- *Prof. dr. Goran Hauser (University of Rijeka, Rector)*
- *Marija Japundža Broznić (City of Rijeka, Administrative Department for Education, Culture, Sports and Youth, Acting Head)*
- *Robert Matić (Primorje-Gorski kotar County, Vice-Prefect)*

### 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)  
Social Protection of Woman Athletes in 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*

- Matea Parlov Koštro, winner of the first historic Croatian medal in the marathon (introductory video)
- 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)
- 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*); Assoc. Prof. Sandra Winkler (*University of Rijeka, Faculty of Law*), Prof. dr. Richard Parrish (*Edge Hill University, UK*)

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