



Clarification of the term “Integration” at the Federal Office of Sport FOSPO

The FOSPO is keen to establish a uniform understanding and cross-divisional use of the term “integration” both within the office and outside. Despite the primary use of “integration”, other terms such as “inclusion” are valid and relevant. They are used in special cases at and by FOSPO as needed, e.g. in a specific sport-related context, in which other terms are more common (e.g. inclusion in the context of disabled sport).

“Integration” in sport refers to equal-opportunity access to and participation in sport for people from all walks of life. Integration refers to a long-term process based on openness, mutual respect and tolerance for all everyone who engages in sport.

Integration is multifaceted and can take on four different dimensions in sport:¹

- (1) through structural access to functions, training opportunities and resources in sport (“Placement”)
- (2) through social acceptance and integration in social relationships (“Interaction”)
- (3) through a sense of affiliation and emotional connection with a specific sport group (“Identification”)
- (4) through acquisition of sport-specific knowledge, sport-specific skills and socio-cultural practices (“Culturation”).

To ensure a successful integration process in sport, both individuals as well as players and organisations in the sports system should endeavour to bring about change and new developments.

¹ Adler Zwahlen, J., Nagel, S. & Schlesinger, T. (2018). Analysing social integration of young migrants in sports clubs. *European Journal for Sport and Society*, 15(1), 22-42. Kleindienst-Cachay, C., Cachay, K. & Bahlke, S. (2012). *Inklusion und Integration. Eine empirische Studie zur Integration von Migrantinnen und Migranten im organisierten Sport*. Schorndorf: Hofmann. Fundamental: Esser, H. (2009). Pluralisierung oder Assimilation? Effekte der multiplen Inklusion auf die Integration von Migranten. *Zeitschrift für Soziologie*, 38(5), 358-378.