

#WorldPlayersUnited



VOICE
DIGNITY
HUMANITY

The World Players Association

85,000

Players

100+

Player Associations

60+

Countries

The **World Players** Association brings together 85,000 players across professional sport through more than 100 player associations in over 60 countries.

All affiliates to World Players are independent, democratic and player led, driven and governed. The players inform the decision-making, negotiations and other activities of their associations on a daily basis.

Major player associations belonging to World Players include:

- FIFPro, *the world football players' union*
- the Federation of International Cricketers' Associations (FICA)
- International Rugby Players
- the European Elite Athletes' Association (EU Athletes)
- the National Football League Players Association (NFLPA)
- the National Hockey League Players Association (NHLPA)
- the National Basketball Players Association (NBPA) and the Women's National Basketball Players Association (WNBPA)
- the Major League Baseball Players Association (MLBPA)
- the Japanese Professional Baseball Players Association (JPBPA)
- the Australian Athletes' Alliance (AAA)
- New Zealand Athletes Federation (NZAF)

The **World Players** Association was formally established in December 2014, an autonomous sector of UNI Global Union (UNI). UNI is the voice of 20 million service sector workers around the world. Through 900 affiliated trade unions, UNI represents workers in 150 countries and in every region of the world. Its Head Office is based in Nyon, Switzerland, with nearly 50 staff.

From December 2014 to March 2017, the **World Players** Association was known as UNI World Athletes.



Vision



To champion the dignity of the player and the humanity of sport.

As the world players association across professional sport, **World Players** has a three-part goal in the pursuit of this vision.

First, the human rights of everyone involved in the delivery of sport must be protected, respected and, where needed, upheld.

Second, the same must be true for the players.

Third, the impact of sport must be positive, including in sporting, economic, environmental and cultural terms.

Key Policies



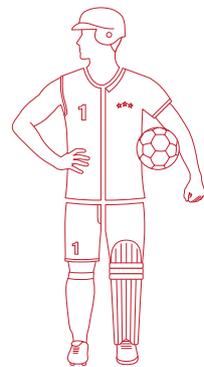
The Universal Declaration of Player Rights

The first comprehensive articulation of athletes' rights. The Declaration sets a benchmark for international sporting organisations to meet their obligations to protect, respect and guarantee the fundamental rights of players. [\(learn more\)](#)



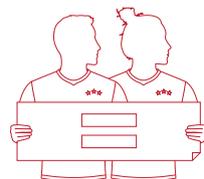
World Player Rights Policy

Articulates the urgent need for international sporting organisations and other relevant sport stakeholders to adopt a player rights policy based on the framework of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. [\(learn more\)](#)



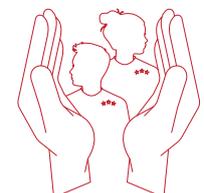
World Player Development, Wellbeing, Transition and Retirement Standard

1. Serves as a tool for player associations in the negotiation and design of player development and wellbeing programs in partnership with sporting bodies, leagues and clubs
2. Sets the benchmark for the world of sport regarding the value it places on developing players holistically
3. Elevates and enhances the role of the Player Development Manager (PDM) in sport. [\(learn more\)](#)



Gender Equality Principles

Set out to ensure that sporting organisations employ female players on terms that meet their obligations under international labour and anti-discrimination standards. [\(learn more\)](#)



Declaration on Safeguarding the Rights of Child Athletes

Sets out several concerns, principles and action areas with the objective of ensuring that the fundamental rights of children are promoted, protected, respected and fulfilled within professional sport. [\(learn more\)](#)

Executive Committee

President



Donald Fehr

Executive Director
NHLPA

(Canada)

World Players President Donald Fehr is the Executive Director of the NHLPA, a position he held from December 18, 2010. Since joining the NHLPA, Don has focused his efforts on building active participation by players in their union, and has travelled extensively to meet and consult with players around the league. Prior to joining the NHLPA, Don spent 33 years with the Major League Baseball Players Association – the last 26 as Executive Director. He was elected as the first President of World Players at its inaugural world assembly held in Cape Town in December 2014.

Executive Director



Brendan Schwab

Executive Director
World Players Association

(Switzerland)

World Players Executive Director Brendan Schwab brings a combination of expertise in organising, labour and human rights law, collective bargaining and dispute resolution, particularly in professional team sports, after 25 years representing elite athletes in Australia and around the world. Schwab was elected as the inaugural 1st Vice President of World Players in December 2014, before assuming his current position in July 2015.



The World Players Association is a partner of the Sport & Rights Alliance, an unprecedented global coalition of leading NGOs and trade unions working together to embed human rights and anti-corruption across world sport and to promote the rights and well-being of those most affected by human rights risks associated with the delivery of sport.



First Vice
President

Theo van Seggelen

Secretary General | FIFPro
(The Netherlands)



Omar Hassanein

Chief Executive Officer |
International Rugby Players
(Ireland)



Vice
President

Tony Irish

Executive Chairman | FICA
(South Africa)



Paul Marsh

Chief Executive Officer | AFLPA
& Board Member | AAA
(Australia)



DeMaurice Smith

Executive Director | NFLPA
(United States)



Dejan Stefanovic

Board Member | FIFPro
(The Netherlands)



Paulina Tomczyk

Secretary General | EU Athletes
(Belgium)



Frederique Winia

Director of International Relations
| FIFPro
(The Netherlands)



Takuya Yamazaki

Legal Counsel & Board Member
| JPBPA
(Japan)



Christy Hoffman

General Secretary | UNI Global
Union
(Switzerland)

#WorldPlayersUnited

#WorldPlayersUnited is the strategic vision of the World Players Association. It introduces the organised and highly respected voice of the players and their organisations to the leadership of world sport.



VOICE

- A. Build a highly credible and visible World Players Association
- B. Help build the power and capacity of player associations at the global, regional and national levels



DIGNITY

- A. Establish and enforce fundamental player rights in world sport
- B. Encourage global collective bargaining



HUMANITY

- A. Partner with sport's many stakeholders to embed human rights in sport
- B. Promote and protect the role of the players in the advancement of human rights in sport and across society

“ World Players is our connector to the global player union movement. Together we strive to protect and advance the fundamental rights of all players across the world.”

Michele Roberts
Executive Director | NBPA





O U R V A L U E S

Inheritance

Leadership

Support

Legacy

