



United Nations Climate Change
Global Climate Action

Sports for Climate Action Framework

Uniting sport. Accelerating climate action.

Version 3.0

TABLE OF CONTENTS	Page
1. BACKGROUND	3
2. OBJECTIVES	4
3. PRINCIPLES	4
Principle 1: Design and implement a net-zero climate strategy	5
Principle 2: Partner with key stakeholders to deliver joint climate action	6
Principle 3: Champion transformative climate action through storytelling and communication	7
Principle 4: Strengthen climate resilience and global solidarity	8
4. THE SPORTS FOR CLIMATE ACTION PLAYING FIELD: THROUGH SCOPES AND SPHERES OF COLLABORATION	9
5. MODALITIES OF WORK	11
6. DELIVERIES OF THE SPORTS FOR CLIMATE ACTION	11

1. Background

1. The world is facing a triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. These interconnected challenges are intensifying, disrupting ecosystems, damaging economies, and affecting lives and livelihoods everywhere. The science is clear: no sector can solve these crises alone. But together, we can. Within this challenge lies the greatest opportunity of our time: to build a greener, more inclusive, and more equitable future where no one is left behind.
2. Sport is already feeling the impacts of climate change—through extreme heat, floods, drought, storms and disrupted seasons. But sport is also one of the few forces capable of reaching billions of people with a message of teamwork, action and resilience. The Sports for Climate Action Framework is designed to help every part of the sport system reduce its own impact, protect its future, and use its influence to accelerate climate action.
3. As one of the world's most powerful cultural forces, sport has everything to gain by playing to win in this transition. Ambitious climate action can help protect sport from rising risks, including extreme weather, unsafe conditions, damaged infrastructure and environmental disruption. Across the world, governing bodies, clubs, athletes, venues, events and communities are already helping to shape a more sustainable sporting future: greener venues powered by clean energy; healthier conditions for athletes, fans and workers; investment in low-carbon innovation; and community engagement models that leave lasting local legacies.
4. Sport's greatest strength is its ability to unite people, inspire hope and create shared stories. Through its platforms, personalities and places, sport can bring climate action to life — showcasing community-led solutions, collective action and solidarity in ways that feel practical, positive and human. In this way, climate action becomes both a responsibility and a shared achievement: driven by teamwork, resilience and a commitment to protecting the planet for future generations.
5. Partnership is essential to this effort. While sport organizations play a central role, meaningful progress relies on working across the wider ecosystem—value chain partners, policymakers, fans, communities, and sponsors. By fostering these connections to co-create solutions, sport can serve as a dynamic platform that extends far beyond the playing field.
6. Leadership will drive this journey. From federations to grassroots clubs and athletes, sport can tell a compelling story for climate action and set powerful examples that ripple globally. The International Olympic Committee has set the standard by supporting Olympic Movement to adopt and implement the goals of the Sports for Climate Action Framework—now every governing body, club, and federation is invited to amplify the call to action and help deliver the principles of this Framework.
7. Sport's influence is rooted in trust. Athletes, clubs, leagues and sports organizations are among the most visible and trusted voices in many societies. This creates both an opportunity and a responsibility. In line with the UNFCCC principles of [Action for Climate Empowerment \(ACE\)](#) of Article 12 of the Paris Agreement, sport can help improve public awareness of climate change, expand access to trustworthy information, and encourage meaningful participation in climate action. To maintain public trust, climate-related communications should be science-based, transparent, and demonstrate integrity, avoiding misinformation, greenwashing, or misleading claims.
8. Sport has already helped to lead progress in equality, diversity, and inclusion. It can have the same impact with climate action. Since launching the Sports for Climate Action Framework in 2018, sport Signatories have started to demonstrate how climate action can

become part of their sport's culture and legacy. The updated Framework builds on this momentum, offering stronger foundations for leadership and collaboration across all levels.

2. Objectives

9. The Signatories to the Sports for Climate Action Initiative come together under the Framework to support a vision of the future of sport: that by 2040, the unifying power of sport has been harnessed to solve one of humanity's greatest challenges, climate change. To achieve this vision, Signatories commit to reducing their own impact, strengthening resilience, and working with others to address shared global challenges.
10. UN Climate Change invites sport organizations, leaders and stakeholders to commit to the principles of the Framework, to work together and to help shape the path to a climate-friendly future for sport and its communities. Through this Framework, sport can play a winning role in achieving global climate goals — protecting the people, places and experiences that make sport possible, while helping to accelerate action across society.
11. Uniting behind a set of principles, this coalition of sports organizations and their communities will work together to achieve a climate resilient future in line with the goals agreed by [global leaders in Paris at COP21](#).
12. The activities under Sports for Climate Action have two overarching objectives:
 - (a) **Objective 1.** Align the impact of sports with the Paris Agreement and build climate resilience for sport around the world.
 - (b) **Objective 2.** Leverage the influential platform of sports to engage communities, fans and global audiences on climate action.
13. Sports for Climate Action sets out this collaborative Framework to both catalyze new and enhance existing environmental commitments. It is an open and inclusive initiative, accessible to all irrespective of geography or size of organization, seeking to build on other related initiatives and commitments made by participating organizations.
14. All Signatories are expected to make a public commitment to the Framework and to report transparently each year on their plans, progress, challenges and learning, in line with practices set by UN Climate Change.

3. Principles

15. There is no one-size-fits-all approach to climate action. A global federation, a professional club, a broadcaster, a major event, a venue, a grassroots organization and every other actor will contribute in different ways, but the Sports for Climate Action Framework provides every sports organization with the foundation for consistent, measurable and mutually supportive action where progress can be made, good practice can be shared, tools can be developed, lessons can be learned, and collaboration can be made easy.
16. The Framework will serve to mainstream climate action that meets fundamental responsibilities in environmental sustainability. By incorporating four principles into strategies, policies and procedures, and by vocalizing them to the sports community, organizations are upholding their basic responsibilities to their sports, the people that love and play them, and the planet, as well as setting the stage for wider impact.
17. More detailed information on all principles and recommended processes for measurement, accounting, strategic development, and reporting are available in a detailed Sports for Climate Action Playbook (available to Signatories).

18. The participants in the Sports for Climate Action Framework commit to adhere to the following four principles:
 - a. **Principle 1:** Design and implement a net-zero climate strategy
 - b. **Principle 2:** Partner with key stakeholders to deliver joint climate action
 - c. **Principle 3:** Champion transformative climate action through storytelling and communication
 - d. **Principle 4:** Strengthen climate resilience and global solidarity
19. Sports organizations are invited to sign up to the Sports for Climate Action Principles wherever they are on their climate journey. Signatories are not expected to have all the answers from the start, but they are expected to act, learn, collaborate, and demonstrate ongoing progress over time. The Framework provides a shared platform to identify, develop and spotlight climate solutions across sport.
20. Each Principle relates to both climate mitigation and adaptation, and all Principles are designed to work together. Progress in one area will often depend on action in another — and may rely on decisions, systems or support from partners, suppliers, governing bodies, policymakers, communities or other stakeholders. These dependencies should be identified, and organizations should plan appropriate engagement to manage them and address any potential barriers to delivery.
21. Commitment to the Framework Principles is a core requirement for all Signatories and reflects a shared ambition to drive climate action across the sports ecosystem. Differences in organizational size, geography, and influence do not diminish this ambition, but rather shape how impact is most effectively delivered.
22. There is no single pathway to achieving climate leadership in sport. Signatories are expected to take a strategic and ambitious approach—prioritizing the Principles where they can deliver the greatest impact and demonstrate leadership—while maintaining accountability across all Principles. This prioritization should reflect a clear rationale and a commitment to continuous improvement over time.

Principle 1: Design and implement a net-zero climate strategy

23. A net-zero strategy is designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions across operations and the value chain to net-zero. Participating organizations must commit at their highest executive level to set measurable, credible, time-bound greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction targets consistent with the latest available science in line with best practice standards. Targets should be developed and, for professional sport organizations, validated in accordance with leading standard setting initiatives. Organizations need to measure, address, and report their GHG emissions within their own operational control and value chain. For GHG accounting purposes, this includes “Scope 1” emissions created directly by the organization, “Scope 2” emissions created by the use of 3rd party energy sources and Scope 3 value chain emissions that are embedded within its upstream and downstream activities, including goods and services, staff and business travel, and waste disposal. For professional sports organizations, this should include the impacts of wider membership, of athlete and fan travel as well as the impacts of specific events. Similarly, for grassroots organizations they should include travel of participants and fans.
24. Delivery of this principle should include engagement activities both internally such as board level engagement, staff training and externally with stakeholders, such as suppliers, members, athletes, and fans.

25. The net-zero strategy and target need to be transparently outlined and include or be followed by a detailed and transparent transition plan and associated budget to demonstrate how the specific actions an organization is planning to drive will be executed towards their net-zero future.
26. As previously referenced, an organization's ability to effectively reduce emissions and make progress towards net-zero may be dependent on factors outside of their control, especially in certain locations. These obstacles and efforts to overcome them should be documented and transparently reported, but organizations are strongly encouraged to demonstrate how they are engaging with relevant stakeholders and institutions to address those barriers and co-create solutions. This also applies to those dependencies which result from their sport's own governing bodies and licensing federations.
27. Lists of activities and dependencies related to this principle, including reporting expectations, are further elaborated in the Playbook (available to Signatories).

Principle 2: Partner with key stakeholders to deliver joint climate action

28. Participating organizations will engage with a wide range of stakeholders — including providers of goods and services and the wider value chain, sponsors, other partners, local government, community leaders, regulators, non-governmental organizations, and fans — to advise on and co-design and implement shared climate solutions. These collaborations can support both mitigation and adaptation efforts. Each stakeholder group brings unique insights and capacities.
29. For many Signatories, their sponsors and the organizations they choose to partner with are not only some of the most important relationships, but they can also help or hinder an organization's ability to implement their climate action goals. Signatories to the Framework should make every effort to ensure their sponsors and partners are similarly aligned and then use that connection to pursue common goals of mitigation, adaptation and communication. Conflicting dependencies should be documented and transparently reported.
30. Fans represent a particularly powerful group of stakeholders. With their passion, reach, and cultural influence, fans offer immense transformative potential. By actively listening to them, understanding their values and concerns, and designing accessible solutions, sports organizations can empower fans to contribute meaningfully to climate action — turning spectators into participants in a global climate movement. Engagement should include local and global fans, fan organizations, grassroots initiatives, and membership-based communities. Fans should be encouraged to engage both by working with other signatory organizations as well as through their own spheres of collaboration outside of those organizations. Sports organizations should create opportunities for meaningful participation, co-design and ongoing dialogue with fans and communities. By listening to local priorities and ensuring that climate action delivers shared benefits, sport can strengthen its social license to operate while building support for ambitious climate action.
31. The Sports for Climate Action framework playbook provides practical recommendations for implementing this principle. It proposes ideas on how sport organizations can create space for solution-oriented dialogue within their policies and business engagement strategies and a phased approach to transform engagement into sustained action — starting with listening, followed by co-designing solutions, and enabling meaningful participation.
32. This principle emphasizes inclusive, meaningful and rights-based engagement to address challenges and opportunities that may influence other principles. Consistent with [Action for Climate Empowerment \(ACE\)](#) of Article 12 of the Paris Agreement, participation in climate action should be recognized not only as an engagement opportunity but also as

an important pathway for communities, fans and stakeholders to contribute to decisions and solutions that affect their future. It also focuses on the collective power of sport to bring people and organizations together.

33. A list of activities and dependencies related to this principle, including reporting expectations, are further elaborated in the Playbook (available to Signatories).

Principle 3: Champion transformative climate action through storytelling and communication

34. Organizations are urged to consistently promote awareness and positive action on climate change, create compelling storytelling by mobilizing, as appropriate, the available resources and platforms such as broadcasting channels, social media, venue, online and media advertising and sponsorship. As trusted messengers become more crucial, sport organizations have a responsibility to ensure that climate-related communications are accurate, evidence-based and aligned with recognized climate science. The purpose of communication is not only to raise awareness, but also to help people understand climate solutions, participate in climate action, and contribute to a climate-resilient future.
35. Using their platforms, sport should showcase transformative examples and avoid promoting messaging that contradict a climate resilient future. Signatories are encouraged to join in the wider conversation around climate change impacts and solutions through supporting and cross-promoting the work of other organizations, both within and outside of their sport. This adds value to organization's own messaging too, making it more authentic and at the same time creating solidarity and a shared vision across sport.
36. Athletes are among sport's most trusted and influential voices. Sports stars at the very top of their game have greater reach than arguably any other demographic on the planet. Organizations should look to harness this. This influence carries a corresponding responsibility. Athletes should be supported to communicate climate information with authenticity, integrity and transparency, helping audiences navigate increasingly complex climate challenges while strengthening public trust. They should be given the support they need through athlete-based initiatives, C-suite officials and decision makers. Additionally, the athletes and individuals involved at a grass roots level can encourage others to get involved through the telling of compelling and relatable human-interest stories.
37. Sport organizations can use events, club grounds, and iconic venues as living examples of their commitment to sustainability. For example, large-scale events should incorporate storytelling about the behind-the-scenes sustainability efforts, such as waste reduction, energy-efficient facilities, and local sourcing of food and materials. Documenting and showcasing these case studies in promotional videos, social media posts, and during broadcasts helps to highlight how the sport industry can lead by example. Importantly, this display of climate leadership can inspire more fans and stakeholders to join in.
38. Sport can also champion transformative climate action through engagement to accelerate implementation by actively advocating for and influencing policies that prioritize sustainability and climate resilience within the sport industry and for the communities that follow them. [Action for Climate Empowerment \(ACE\)](#), recognizes six key elements for climate engagement, including public awareness, access to information, public participation, education, training and international cooperation. Sport can make a significant contribution across these areas by acting as a trusted bridge between climate policy, scientific knowledge and communities.
39. Public participation is recognized as a fundamental right and an essential element of effective climate action. Sport organizations can help create pathways for participation by providing communities and fans with access to reliable information, opportunities for

dialogue, and channels through which they can contribute to climate-related initiatives, policies and decision-making processes at local, national and international levels.

40. Promoting policy solutions that incentivize low-carbon technologies and green innovation in sports equipment, transportation, and fan engagement can set industry-wide standards with ripple effects. By using their visibility and influence, sport organizations encourage their suppliers, they can create policy momentum, inspire cross-sector partnerships, and lead by example in implementing policies that prioritize climate action, thus ensuring a more sustainable and resilient future for the sport.
41. Sport using its unifying power can showcase that climate action is possible and good for all - through powerful storytelling it can influence cabinet rooms, board rooms and living rooms. Sports can be used as a tool to motivate policymakers to adopt ambitious climate policies and invest in both mitigation and adaptation strategies that provide direct benefits to their communities; By engaging key partners and sponsors, sports can advocate for climate action within the business community, promoting partnerships that prioritize healthy environment;
42. Sport organizations are encouraged to collaborate with governments, local authorities, cities, community networks, national ACE focal points and other public institutions to strengthen climate awareness, participation and implementation. Through these partnerships, sport can help connect international climate objectives with local action while supporting more inclusive and effective public engagement.
43. A list of activities and dependencies related to this principle, including reporting expectations, are further elaborated in the Playbook (available to Signatories).

Principle 4: Strengthen climate resilience and global solidarity

44. Whilst mitigation is essential to securing a climate safe future and protecting sport and wider society from the most extreme impacts of climate change, it is increasingly apparent that the effects of climate change are already being felt. Because sport is so often in contact with the climate and environment, impacts of flooding, drought, extreme and intensifying storms and heat/humidity are already causing real impacts. It is therefore equally important that commitment to climate action is accompanied by concrete plans and actions to ensure safe environments for sport participants worldwide.
45. Solidarity and collaboration in pursuit of this resilience is essential. Disproportionate impacts are most often felt by vulnerable populations and in geographies where adaptive capacities do not always exist. In both instances, there is a lack of resources and capacity available to enact the needed adaptation and resilience measures.
46. Climate solidarity in the context of this Framework means using the unifying power of sport to ensure everyone—regardless of resources—can participate in meaningful global climate action. There is a long tradition of teamwork and solidarity that already exists in sport and Signatories are invited to build on that. UN Climate Change invites all sport organizations to create or contribute to initiatives that support sport communities most affected by climate change and show true examples of a need-based solidarity.
47. These initiatives could, for example, include financial, technical, and educational resources for vulnerable sports organizations to address their emissions, invest in renewable energy, make facilities more sustainable or more resilient to impacts of climate change. Climate action must be inclusive, equitable, and just as it fosters global cooperation. Solidarity initiatives can emphasize the need for mutual support and cooperation to ensure that everyone, particularly the most vulnerable, has the resources and opportunities to mitigate and adapt to climate impacts. One example of solidarity is the IOC's Olympic Solidarity programme, which supports athletes and National Olympic

Committees in need. There is a need for similar projects in all of sport. These projects can also be an important link to fans and community and should be communicated through the type of storytelling outlined in Principle 3.

- 48. Organizations are asked to create a climate resilience plan alongside or within their net-zero plan. The plan should be a comprehensive strategy designed to enhance resilience to the impacts of climate change. The plan should involve measures to adapt to climate impacts, ensuring their systems, infrastructure, and sport communities are prepared to withstand extreme weather events, rising sea levels, and other climate-related risks. The aim is to create structures that are flexible and capable of thriving in a changing environment, ensuring long-term environmental, social, and economic sustainability. Delivery of this principle should include engagement activities with external stakeholders such as suppliers, members, athletes, and fans as well as tangible examples of the solidarity mentioned.
- 49. Not every organization is expected to create a new initiative. Participation in existing efforts or collaborations is equally valuable. The goal is to enable inclusive, just, and global climate action, reflecting the diverse capacities and contributions across the sport sector.
- 50. A list of activities and dependencies related to this principle, including reporting expectations, are further elaborated in the Playbook (available to Signatories).

4. The Sports for Climate Action Playing Field: Through Scopes and Spheres of Collaboration

- 51. To support the principles above, the Framework recommends that signatory actions, both individual and collective, are recorded in a new structure that allows measurement and reporting of activities within an organization's scopes and within their wider spheres of collaboration in sport. Not all scopes or spheres will be equally applicable to every signatory. Signatories are encouraged to focus on the areas where they have the greatest impact and influence, and to document where and why engagement may be limited.
- 52. Additional measurement and reporting guidance for this new structure, with examples, is provided in the Playbook (available to Signatories) to support meaningful participation across diverse organizational types and capacities.
- 53. Reporting is designed to support transparency, learning, decision making and continuous improvement. Signatories should report not only successes, but also barriers, dependencies, data gaps and support needs. Honest reporting helps the wider sport community identify shared challenges and build collective solutions.

	Design and implement a net-zero climate strategy	Partner with key stakeholders to deliver joint climate action	Champion transformative climate action through storytelling and communication	Strengthen climate resilience and global solidarity
Scope 1+2	Deliver Scope 1+2 emission reductions	Build internal collaboration and engage key stakeholders	Report Scope 1+2 progress transparently and build a credible narrative	Address climate vulnerability within your organization
Scope 3	Deliver Scope 3 impact reductions	Collaborate with value chain partners to reduce Scope 3 emissions	Report Scope 3 progress and communicate barriers clearly	Address climate vulnerability within your value chain
Sphere C	Implement a clear plan to engage local communities and cities on climate	Build partnerships with local communities and cities	Share local stories that inspire climate action	Support resilience and solidarity in local communities and cities
Sphere F	Implement a clear plan for fan and participant engagement	Collaborate with fans and participants for maximum impact	Engage fans with stories that inspire climate action	Support resilience and solidarity with fans and participants
Sphere X	Implement a clear plan for global climate communication	Partner for effective global engagement (sponsorship and policy)	Maximize global climate messaging to empower action	Support global climate resilience

Figure 1: Climate Action Playing Field of Principles and Scopes & Spheres of Collaboration

Spheres of Collaboration:

- (a) **Scope 1+2:** Take action on own direct and indirect emissions, and embedding climate action within internal systems and policies
- (b) **Scope 3:** Take action on value chain emissions and with suppliers and partners globally
- (c) **Sphere C:** Engage communities and cities closest to organizations and venues to collaborate on climate solutions, strengthen resilience, improve public participation, and ensure that climate action reflects local needs, rights and priorities.
- (d) **Sphere F:** Empower fans to increase their climate awareness and action and provide engagement avenues to co-design action plans together.
- (e) **Sphere X:** Harness the global power of sport to expand public awareness, improve access to trustworthy climate information, strengthen climate literacy, support public participation and accelerate climate action through storytelling, advocacy and policy engagement.

Scope 1, 2 and 3 come from GHG Protocol whereas spheres of collaboration provide avenues for sport to engage more broadly for systems transformation through its unique inspiring and influencing power. Sports for Climate Action Signatories recognize the interconnectedness of these scopes and spheres and commits to reporting on progress within each scope and sphere annually.

5. Modalities of Work

54. UN Climate Change is committed to convene the Sports for Climate Action Initiative, facilitate and coordinate, within its resources and mandates and as part of its work on Global Climate Action and Action for Climate Empowerment, the work undertaken by Signatories to Sports for Climate Action.
55. The Sports for Climate Action Initiative does not constitute a new registered organization, but work is carried out by the Signatories with facilitation from the UN Climate Change secretariat.
56. Signatories to the Sports for Climate Action are committed to support the implementation of the principles contained in its Framework, both by pursuing the principles within their own organizations, by leading the work for a specific principle, and by working collectively with other Signatories.

6. Deliveries of the Sports for Climate Action

57. The UN Climate Change secretariat will facilitate the work by:
 - (a) Supporting the delivery of the identified shared activities as per UN Climate Change's existing resources and mandates;
 - (b) Maintaining a list of Signatories and their participation in shared activities;
 - (c) Facilitating regular online calls and meetings as may be necessary among Signatories;
 - (d) Organising an annual in-person meeting with all Signatories to take stock of progress; share lessons learned and discuss and agree on work to be done in the next year. Leads of shared activities will be invited to host the meeting on a rotational basis and attendees will bear their own costs of attendance;
 - (e) Coordinating external communication activities by the Signatories;
 - (f) Presenting and explaining the work of the Signatories to other entities and organizations, as needed, to facilitate delivery of work by the Signatories.
58. No participating signatory may represent or make statements on behalf of the other Signatories of the Sports for Climate Action Initiative, unless this has been agreed by all Signatories.
59. Signatories of the Sports for Climate Action are not entitled to use the name or logo of the UN Climate Change without the express permission by the UN Climate Change secretariat in writing.
60. The UN Climate Change secretariat and the Signatories of the Sports for Climate Action Initiative may not use the name, brand or logo of any of the other Signatories without express permission.
61. Professional sport organizations, including clubs, teams, governing bodies, leagues, venues, federations, associations, sport event organizers, rightsholders, and sport broadcasters—are invited to join the Framework as Signatories.
62. UN Climate Change invites athletes, athletes' associations, players' unions and other athlete representative bodies to engage with the Framework as trusted messengers and advocates for the planet we love, sharing positive stories and practical examples that can inspire and mobilize audiences across the sports community and beyond.

63. UN Climate Change invites "Friends of the Framework"—organizations and institutions professionally engaged with sport, including sport-for-development organizations, non-governmental organizations, foundations, educational institutions, research bodies, technical assistance providers, philanthropic organizations and other relevant partners - to share best practices, support capacity-building, mobilize new Signatories and amplify the Framework through their networks and expertise. Friends of the Framework may contribute through technical support, convening, knowledge-sharing, education, funding, community engagement and implementation support. A separate Terms of Reference and criteria for participation applies for the Friends of the Framework.
64. To ensure the quality and credibility of the work of the Signatories of the Sports for Climate Action Initiative, the UN Climate Change Secretariat may exclude an organization from the list of Signatories if its sincerity in participation or ability to participate is a cause for concern.
65. The Signatories of the Sports for Climate Action Initiative shall take into due account all regulations applicable to them that relate to antitrust or anti-competitive behaviors and shall refrain from any such behaviors during or in relation to their participation in the Sports for Climate Action meetings, events and related activities.
66. The UN Climate Change may cease to be associated with or support the Sports for Climate Action Framework if it is no longer able to meet the resourcing needs of the initiative or if it is no longer within the mandate of the UNFCCC to continue.