



Waldkirch, 19. September 2015

Schlussfeier der Universitäts-Europameisterschaften Golf European Universities Golf Championship (EUC Golf)

Grusswort Regierungsrat Stefan Kölliker

Es gilt das gesprochene Wort.

Dear Rector of our University
Dear Mister President of the Organizing Committee
Dear Golf-Players and Guests
Ladies and Gentlemen

On the occasion of the 4th European Universities Golf Championship and on behalf of the government of the Canton of St. Gallen I would like to welcome you all here today in our beautiful canton. In my capacity as Minister of Education and Sport I am very happy and proud that the University of St. Gallen is hosting this special event. It's a unique experience for me, Ladies and Gentlemen, since golf players are not part of my usual audience, I would like to thank you for your interest and commitment to take part in this Championship, in which 23 teams of 11 countries have been pitting their strengths against each other. I would also like to thank the Organizing Committee for the excellent work to make this event a memorable happening.



Compared to politics, the rules of the game in sports are always clear and fair play is rated much higher, than it is in politics. Baron Pierre de Coubertin, founder of the International Olympic Committee said: "The important thing in life is not the triumph, but the fight; the essential thing is not to have won, but to have fought well." Competition can be severe but you should always first look for joy when practicing any sports. You should never forget about the play even in the heat of the fight.

Why is Fair Play Important? Fair play in sports is important because it is a moral guide. Fair play prevents people from cheating and prevents both teams and players from having an advantage. This combination of striving for the best result whilst applying the rules of fair play is the very essence of sport. Playing fair also has to do with making choices. As we interact with each other in sport, or as spectators of sport, we must regularly consider and define what we think is right and what is not. Sport engages us in a collective effort to pursue human excellence.

Fair play is not a theory. Fair play is an attitude that manifests itself in behavior. From my point of view, these days not only politics but also society is lacking fair play. We all can learn a thing or two from sport. For many people athletes are role models in terms of values such as self discipline, fighting spirit, team work or fair play. For me as Minister of Education and Sport it's important that these values are taught in our schools at an early stage.



As our children interact with each other in sport, their ability to make good choices about fair play issues matures along with their ability to think and learn about what makes for a rewarding and fulfilling life in society. Sport offers the opportunity for self-knowledge, self-expression and fulfillment, personal achievement, social interaction and personal well-being. I am convinced, you can benefit from this mind set later as a student or as a future executive manager in the corporate world. Sport is a University of life.

Ladies and gentlemen, I hope you had the chance to enjoy some of the many delights the canton of St. Gallen has to offer. It is a wonderful season for hiking, strolling along the Lake of Constance or visiting the famous Abbey, which is part of the UNESCO World Heritage. I am excited to present the fair play award winner of 2015 shortly. I hope you enjoy the rest of the ceremony and thank you for your attention!