

## STATEMENT ON FSB

The German Olympic Sports Confederation (DOSB) is the umbrella organisation for German sport: We represent sports clubs in Germany. With more than 27 million members in around 87,000 sports clubs, we are the largest citizens' movement in Germany.

Making sustainability the focus of FSB sends an excellent signal. Since the 1980s, sustainability has become a global mission. The pace of change has accelerated in recent years, including in the field of sport. The DOSB has declared itself in favour of long-term, environmentally responsible and sustainable sports and club development in its statutes.

Across the entire spectrum of sport and in the DOSB's fields of work, there are diverse connections to the three pillars of sustainability:

- The environmental pillar in the context of environmental protection and nature conservation
- The social pillar in connection with health, education (including values education), inclusion, equal opportunities, diversity and promoting engagement
- The economic pillar with regard to economic efficiency, good governance and employee development

Sports organisations have demonstrated a growing commitment to sustainability in recent years. They have published sustainability strategies and reports, hosted competitions and events, and drawn up programmes.

But how have sports clubs fared in recent years? The past few years have been extremely challenging for sports clubs. The coronavirus pandemic brought many of them to a standstill: Sports facilities were closed; no training could take place. Just as many sports clubs were slowly returning to normality, the next crisis appeared.

The shortage of fossil fuels due to Russia's invasion of Ukraine presented challenges for many sports clubs. The mostly volunteer-run clubs have implemented energy-saving measures and demonstrated how creative and resilient they are. However, on the other side, the financial challenges are evident. The mild winter and support in the form of the electricity and gas price caps by the Federal Government and the hardship regulations adopted by the Federal States have eased the situation somewhat. But it is too early to say whether the danger has passed. Costs may have fallen significantly, but they are still considerably higher than before the war. This will continue to be a strain on sports clubs. For this reason, sport must concern itself with the question of energy supply, but also with the general issue of intensifying climate change.

After all, Germany is famous as a world champion in building sports facilities. We have around 230,000 sports facilities across the country. Most of our current landscape of sports facilities was built as part of the so-called "golden plans" in the 1960s to the 1980s. The need for renovation and modernisation amounted to at least 31 billion euros in 2018 – and that figure does not include the costs of decarbonisation, which is necessary to achieve independence from fossil fuels in the long term. A multi-year renovation and modernisation drive is therefore needed to preserve a crucial piece of our quality of life in sporting Germany.

The Federal Government's Coalition Agreement reflects the importance of sport and the challenges set out above. The drive by local authorities and clubs to invest in sports facilities with sustainability, accessibility and inclusion in mind is to be expanded. In addition, the Federal Government is



conducting a joint participatory process to draft a sports development plan. In this plan, the Federal Government is to see sport as a cross-sectional task for various ministries.

The issues mentioned here are highly relevant to our society. Sport as an activity benefiting the common good has enormous potential to emerge stronger from these crises.

It is therefore vital that we consider the issues of climate and environmental protection, funding for the design of modern sports venues and many other issues at FSB.

This is why we are teaming up with IAKS Germany, the Federal Institute of Sports Science (BISp), the Association of German Cities (DST), and the German Association of Towns and Municipalities (DStGB) to host the Second German Sports Facilities Day at FSB on 25 October. This year, we will discuss the future of sports venues and spaces for movement. Our aim is to jointly develop solutions for sustainable, modern and exercise-friendly sports facilities.

We now need to forge new paths to secure the future of sports venues and spaces for movement for coming generations. Let's join forces and start taking action together! Because ultimately, without sports facilities, there can be no sport.

Christian Siegel  
Head of Department – Sports Facilities, Environment and Sustainability  
German Olympic Sports Confederation