

Assembly of First Nations

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ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
July 14-15-16, 2026, Ottawa, ON

Resolution no. 54/2026

TITLE: Supporting the Development of Independent Indigenous Sport Advocacy and Accountability Mechanisms

SUBJECT: Sports and Recreation

MOVED BY: Chief Zachary Whitecap, Red Earth Cree Nation, SK

SECONDED BY: Chief Edwin Ananas, Beary's & Okemasis First Nation, SK

DECISION Approved by the AFN Executive Committee by consensus.

WHEREAS:

A. The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) states:

- i. Article 7(1): Indigenous individuals have the rights to life, physical and mental integrity, liberty and security of person.
- ii. Article 21(1): Indigenous peoples have the right, without discrimination, to the improvement of their economic and social conditions, including, inter alia, in the areas of education, employment, vocational training and retraining, housing, sanitation, health and social security.
- iii. Article 22(2): States shall take measures, in conjunction with indigenous peoples, to ensure that indigenous women and children enjoy the full protection and guarantees against all forms of violence and discrimination.
- iv. Article 40: Indigenous peoples have the right to access to and prompt decision through just and fair procedures for the resolution of conflicts and disputes with States or other parties, as well as to effective remedies for all infringements of their individual and collective rights. Such a decision shall give due consideration to the customs, traditions, rules and legal systems of the indigenous peoples concerned and international human rights.

B. First Nations athletes, families, coaches, officials, and community members continue to experience racism, discrimination, harassment, abuse, retaliation, and exclusion within sport systems across Canada;

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- C. Existing sport complaint processes often rely heavily on internal reviews, self-investigation, and systems reviewing themselves, which can undermine trust, transparency, accountability, and confidence in the complaint process;
- D. First Nations have Inherent and enduring rights and responsibilities, affirmed through Treaty, to protect the well-being, safety, dignity, and future of their people, including children and youth participating in sport and recreation;
- E. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada Calls to Action 87 through 91 call upon governments, sport organizations, and Canadians to eliminate racism and barriers faced by Indigenous Peoples in sport and to create culturally safe sporting environments;
- F. Recent reports, investigations, and public discussions across Canada have highlighted ongoing concerns regarding athlete safety, abuse, racism, discrimination, and accountability within sport systems demonstrating the need for independent and culturally appropriate oversight mechanisms;
- G. First Nations athletes, particularly children and youth, require accessible, trauma-informed, culturally grounded, and independent mechanisms to raise concerns without fear of retaliation;
- H. Meaningful accountability in sport cannot exist without independent oversight developed through Indigenous governance and protected from interference by sport organizations, governing bodies, or institutions being reviewed;
- I. Indigenous Peoples have the right to participate fully and safely in sport and recreation free from racism, discrimination, harassment, abuse, retaliation, and exclusion; and
- J. There is a need to explore Indigenous-led approaches to sport advocacy, accountability, and athlete safety that are grounded in Indigenous laws, governance systems, Treaty relationships, and the principles of the UN Declaration.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the First Nations-in-Assembly:

- 1. Direct the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) to support the development of options for potential establishment of an independent First Nations-led sport advocacy and accountability mechanisms that serve First Nations athletes, families, coaches, and communities across Canada.
- 2. Direct the AFN to engage with First Nations, Indigenous sport organizations, federal and provincial governments, and other partners to assess the feasibility and support the development of First Nations-led sport accountability and advocacy mechanisms.
- 3. Direct the AFN to advocate for funding to undertake the First Nations-led research, engagement, and planning required to examine governance models, authorities, scope, accountability mechanisms, and best practices for First Nations-led sport advocacy systems grounded in Treaty relationships, First Nations governance and legal traditions, the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action.
- 4. Direct the AFN to advocate to all Canadian governments to ensure that culturally safe, trauma-informed, independent complaint and review mechanisms for First Nations athletes, youth, families, coaches, and

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communities who experience racism, discrimination, harassment, abuse, retaliation, or exclusion are embedded within all sport systems.

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