



**I TRUST SPORT**

**Analysis of FIA governance using the  
Basic Indicators for Better Governance  
in Sport assessment tool**

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## Executive summary

I Trust Sport has analysed the governance of the the Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile ([FIA](#)) using an assessment tool known as [Basic Indicators for Better Governance in Sports Organisations \(BIBGIS\)](#) developed in 2013 by [IDHEAP](#), the Swiss Graduate School of Public Administration. The study was commissioned by David Ward<sup>1</sup>, who recently stood in the FIA 2013 Presidential Election but did not succeed in obtaining sufficient nominations to be confirmed as a candidate.

Founded in 1904, the FIA is the governing body of motor sport worldwide and the international organisation of motoring bodies. A non-profit organisation based in Paris, it runs a sophisticated operation which administers a popular and highly complex sport as well as having a major role representing 60 million road and track users.

The analysis of the FIA suggests that it does many things well – it is noticeable that there are 12 maximum scores out of 63 governance indicators. As one example, the legal apparatus of the International Tribunal and the International Court of Appeal is more comprehensive for dealing with disciplinary matters than comparable systems in most other sports. In addition, the FIA, in association with the FIA Foundation and the FIA Institute, invests extensively in its non-profit objectives regarding motor sport training and road safety. Also on the positive side, the FIA has adopted a Code of Ethics in the process of successfully gaining official recognition from the International Olympic Committee.

However, there are some major aspects of governance where the FIA falls short of the highest international standards. Most notably, there is no openly published information about the organisation's finances and accounts, nor about the remuneration of officials. Furthermore, few of the FIA's constituent bodies publish reports on their activities and there is a lack of independent, non-executive members in the elected FIA bodies.

In the view of I Trust Sport, the FIA could make significant improvements in its governance with some fairly straightforward reforms, such as:

- Openly publishing financial accounts according to recognised international standards
- Openly publishing remuneration details of elected officials and senior managers
- Openly publishing an annual report, which would contain a summary of the FIA's major activities
- Introducing fully independent, non-executive members of the Senate and World Councils

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<sup>1</sup> David Ward has worked for the last 20 years in various capacities with the FIA, most recently as the Director General of the FIA Foundation (2001-2013).

## About BIBGIS

Professor Jean-Loup Chappelet and Michaël Mrkonjic at IDHEAP developed BIBGIS in 2013 as an assessment tool for analysing the governance of international sports governing bodies after studying and comparing a number of different sets of principles of good governance in sport produced in recent years, including the [Basic Universal Principles of Good Governance of the Olympic and Sports Movement \(2008\)](#).

The BIBGIS tool consists of 63 indicators equally divided into 7 categories:

Category	Assessment covered by 9 indicators
Organisational transparency	To what extent the main documents and official information of the sports organisation are published on its website
Reporting transparency	To what extent the main annual reports and financial information of the sports organisation are published on its website or in traditional form (reports)
Stakeholders' representation	To what extent the main stakeholders of the sports organisation are represented in the organisation's different bodies
Democratic process	To what extent democratic processes are in place in the sports organisation
Control mechanisms	Assessing whether the sports organisation has established controls and appropriate procedures in its activities and decisions
Sport integrity	Assessing measures that the sports organisation has put in place for guaranteeing the integrity of its sport and main stakeholders
Solidarity	To what extent the sports organisation supports its main stakeholders, notably through ad hoc programmes and revenue redistribution

Each of the 63 indicators is scored on a scale:

- 0 - not fulfilled
- 1 - partially fulfilled
- 2 - fulfilled
- 3 - well-fulfilled
- 4 - totally fulfilled in a state of the art way

The maximum score is therefore 36 (9 x 4) in each category and 252 (36 x 7) overall. While the absolute score is useful as a guide, the main function of BIBGIS is to set a benchmark for the organisation being studied, highlighting good practice and identifying areas for improvement.

BIBGIS has been tested and implemented by several international sports governing bodies. BIBGIS was one of the tools used in [an analysis of FIFA governance](#) published by Professor Roger Pielke, Jr. from the University of Colorado in October 2013.

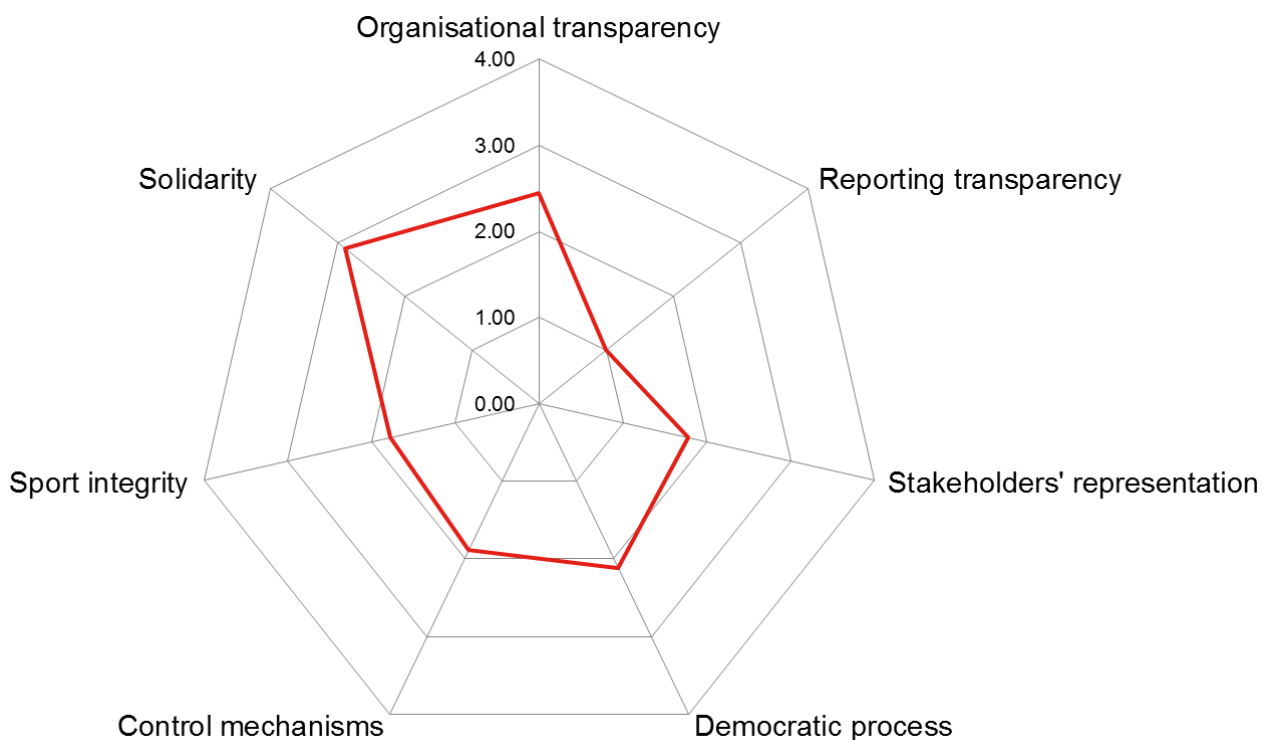
I Trust Sport is implementing BIBGIS with kind permission from IDHEAP.

## Sources of information used

- The [FIA website](#) and in particular
  - [FIA Statutes 2012](#)
  - [FIA Internal Regulations 2012](#)
  - [FIA International Sporting Code 2013](#)
  - [FIA Code of Ethics 2012](#)
  - [FIA Anti-Doping Regulations 2013](#)
- Insight from David Ward

The analysis took place between 18 and 30 November 2013.

## Average score by category



## Analysis of scores by category

Category	High score	Low score	Total	Average out of 4
Organisational transparency	4	1	22	2.44
Reporting transparency	4	0	9	1.00
Stakeholders' representation	4	0	16	1.78
Democratic process	4	0	19	2.11
Control mechanisms	4	0	17	1.89
Sport integrity	3	0	16	1.78
Solidarity	4	1	26	2.89
Overall			125/252	1.98

Note: there are 9 indicators in each of the 7 categories

## High and low scores

High scores (4 out of 4):

- The FIA publishes its statutes and rules and provides useful explanations
- The FIA publishes detailed information about its member National Automobile Clubs and National Automobile Associations
- The FIA publishes news and press releases promptly with extra information when relevant
- The FIA publishes detailed reports on all of its championships
- Member clubs are well represented in the FIA's constituent bodies including the Senate, World Council for Automobile Mobility and Tourism, World Motor Sport Council, Sporting Commissions and elsewhere
- Competition leagues and event organisers are also well represented in the FIA's constituent bodies
- The FIA General Assembly meets every year and the Senate and World Councils meet regularly with forward dates published and provision for an Extraordinary General Assembly, if required
- Through the FIA's International Tribunal and the International Court of Appeal there are detailed rules and procedures in place to consider disciplinary matters
- The FIA, in partnership with the FIA Foundation invests in the FIA's non-profit objectives regarding motor sport training, road safety and more
- The FIA, in partnership with the FIA Foundation and FIA Institute redistribute funds to member clubs according to criteria and publish results
- The FIA Institute for Motor Sport Safety runs a development programme for the sport at elite and grassroots level
- The FIA collaborates with various United Nation bodies concerning road safety, tourism and the environment as well as with some NGOs and the FIA Foundation

Other good scores (3 out of 4):

- The FIA has term limits in place for the Senate and World Councils with restrictions on re-election
- The FIA has age limits for candidates for election
- The International Court of Appeal provides an independent forum for contesting decisions
- The FIA has a Code of Ethics in place which includes guidance on the giving and receiving of gifts
- The FIA has conflict of interest guidelines in place including a register of interests
- The FIA complies with the World Anti-Doping Code and publishes results
- The FIA Foundation has a monitoring and audit procedure for grants given to stakeholders
- The FIA audits the use of funds given to social responsibility programmes

Low scores (0 out of 4):

- The FIA does not publish audited accounts and does not use recognised international standards
- The FIA does not publish the compensation benefits and financial allowances of its president or other elected officials
- The FIA does not publish salaries and benefits of its senior managers
- The FIA does not publish details of any income tax paid
- There are no independent members in the Senate or World Councils
- Elected officials and senior managers are overwhelmingly male
- Drivers' agents, coaches and medical staff are not represented in FIA bodies
- Media partners are not represented in FIA bodies
- Motor sport supporters, volunteers and grass roots participants are not represented in FIA bodies
- The FIA has no confidential reporting mechanism for whistle blowers

Other aspects of governance with room for improvement (score 1 out of 4):

- There are inconsistencies in the regulations for candidature to the FIA presidency and the nominations process is highly restrictive
- Separation of regulatory and commercial functions is not explicitly recognised in the statutes
- The FIA does not publish annual activity reports
- The FIA does not publish an organisation chart
- The FIA does not publish the agenda for the General Assembly in advance
- The FIA does not have an internal environmental responsibility policy
- Stewards are not formally represented on the World Motor Sport Council
- The FIA provides limited support to communities that host events to help with legacy planning

## About I Trust Sport

[I Trust Sport](#) is a new company dedicated to improving governance in international sport.

## Further information

The full analysis including all scores and references is available on request.

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