



CALL FOR PAPERS

Understanding and Addressing Online Harms in Sport

First Annual Conference of the UAOA International Research Network

9 June 2027 | FIA Headquarters | Paris, France

Abstract deadline: 5 February 2027 | Notification: 26 February 2027

Understanding and addressing online harms

The UAOA International Research Network (UAOA IRN) invites submissions for its inaugural annual academic conference, taking place on 9 June 2027 at the FIA Headquarters in Paris.

Hosted by Dublin City University and supported by the FIA's United Against Online Abuse initiative and the FIA Foundation, the UAOA IRN brings together researchers from across disciplines and countries to strengthen the global evidence base on online harms in sport.

Digital and social media have transformed sport, creating new opportunities for communication, participation and connection. At the same time, they have created and intensified forms of harm experienced by athletes, officials, journalists, fans and other participants in sport. These harms range from racism, misogyny, homophobia and other forms of discriminatory abuse to threats, harassment, disinformation and emerging technology-enabled harms. Their consequences raise wider questions about wellbeing, platform responsibility, organisational governance, regulation and the responsibilities of sport itself.

The theme of our inaugural conference, Understanding and Addressing Online Harms in Sport, reflects the need both to better understand these problems and to develop effective responses. We welcome empirical, conceptual and methodological contributions from across disciplines and methodological traditions, particularly research examining the causes, consequences, contexts and potential solutions to online harms.

Conference themes

- Prevention and response, including interventions, education, counter-speech, data and evidence-informed practice
- Governance, safeguarding, regulation and organisational responsibility across sport
- Platforms, technology and emerging harms, including content moderation, artificial intelligence, deepfakes and disinformation
- The consequences of online harms for athletes, officials, journalists, fans and other sport stakeholders

- Discrimination, identity and inequality, including racism, misogyny, homophobia and intersectional harms
- The nature, prevalence and experiences of online abuse and other online harms in sport

We particularly encourage contributions that consider what effective responses to online harms might look like, including research evaluating interventions, identifying good practice, or examining how research evidence can better inform policy and practice.

Who should submit?

The conference welcomes researchers at all career stages and from a wide range of disciplines, including sport studies, sociology, media and communication, marketing and management, psychology, law, criminology, computer and data science, public policy and related fields. We particularly encourage submissions from doctoral researchers and early-career researchers, as well as interdisciplinary and international collaborations.

Both completed research and research in progress are welcome.

Submission guidelines

Proposals should be submitted in English and should include:

- a presentation title;
- an abstract of no more than 250 words (citations not included);
- the name and institutional affiliation of all authors; and
- a short biography of the presenting author.

Accepted contributors will be invited to deliver a 15-minute presentation, followed by discussion.

ABSTRACT DEADLINE	5 February 2027
NOTIFICATION OF ACCEPTANCE	26 February 2027
CONFERENCE	9 June 2027
VENUE	FIA Headquarters, Paris

About the UAOA International Research Network

The UAOA International Research Network (UAOA IRN), hosted by Dublin City University (DCU) and supported by the FIA's United Against Online Abuse initiative and the FIA Foundation, is a global network dedicated to strengthening the evidence base on online harms in sport. Bringing together researchers and partners from across sport, technology and media, the UAOA IRN connects expertise to accelerate research, encourage knowledge and evidence sharing, and translate research into meaningful action.

The annual conference provides a dedicated forum for the international research community to share emerging work, develop collaborations and contribute to the evidence base needed to make sport's digital environments safer and more inclusive.

Submission link/email: Gary.Sinclair@DCU.ie

Further information: unitedagainstoneabuse.com/uaoa-international-research-network/