ESG & CSR in Sports



#### **OVERVIEW**

- Corporate contributions to community development through initiatives.
- Sports as a tool for positive life transformation.
- Adding value to brands through CSR and sports.
- Collaborating with sponsors to enhance CSR in sports.
- Strengthening partnerships through CSR and ESG alignment.
- Sports as an employee benefit.
- Ensuring partnerships align with ESG goals and create social impact.
- Best practices for ESG-focused sports sponsorships.
- Successful ESG campaigns in sports.

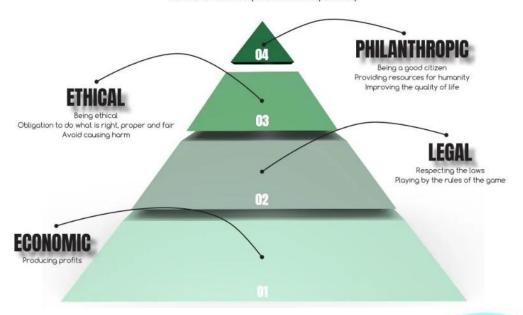
### INTRODUCTION



#### **CARROLL'S PYRAMID**

B

the four levels of corporate social responsibility











**PROFIT** 

# SUSTAINABLE GEALS



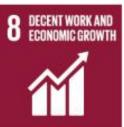
























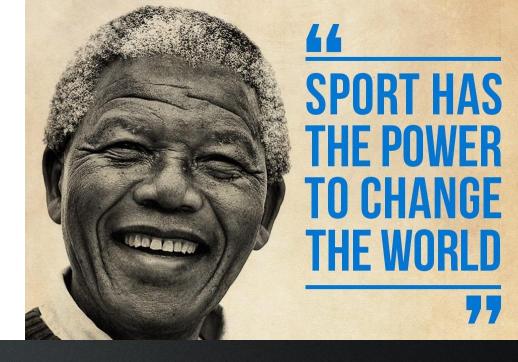








# THE POWER OF SPORT



Sport has the power to change the world. It has the power to inspire. It has the power to unite people in a way that little else does. It speaks to youth in a language they understand. Sport can create hope where once there was only despair.

Nelson Mandela

#### **BACKGROUND & EXPERIENCE**

- University of Wisconsin
  - BBA (Bachelor's Business Administration, Finance and Marketing
- Northwestern University School of Law
  - JD (Juris Doctor)

#### **CURRENT:**

Sports Philanthropy Network, Founder



#### **PREVIOUS:**

- SportsLoop (Sports Agency, Event Management, Marketing Consulting)
- SportsBrain (Concussion Management and Education)
- Northwestern University—Adjunct Professor, Sports Law
- Chicago Bar Association Sports Law Committee—Multi-year Co-Chair
- Sports Lawyers Association
- National Sports Marketing Network

#### WHY IS CSR IMPORTANT?

- •77 **percent** of consumers are more motivated to purchase from companies committed to positive change
- •73 percent of people are more forgiving towards purpose-driven companies, even in the face of mistakes
- •Gen Z, ever growing as a driving force in the market, is **300 percent** more likely than previous generations to believe that businesses should serve communities and society

#### **DEFINITION & PURPOSE OF CSR**

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) refers to a business model in which companies integrate social and environmental concerns into their operations and interactions with stakeholders.

#### **KEY ASPECTS OF CSR INCLUDE:**

- Environmental sustainability: Reducing carbon footprints, waste management, and adopting eco-friendly practices.
- Social equity: Supporting community initiatives, improving labor practices, and contributing to social causes.
- **Ethical governance**: Promoting transparency, accountability, and fair business practices.
- Philanthropy: Donating to charitable causes or supporting community welfare programs.
- **CSR** is often seen as a way for businesses to build trust with society while fostering long-term sustainability and profitability.
- **CSR** encompasses a range of practices that businesses adopt to operate ethically and contribute positively to society.

### WHAT IS ESG?

- Environmental, Social, and Governance
- Often referred to as "Sustainability".
- It's a framework that measures a company's ethical and sustainable behavior. **ESG** is also an investing principle that prioritizes these three areas.
- **ESG** is often referred to as sustainability. It's a set of practices that companies use to limit their negative impact and increase their positive impact on the environment, society, and governance.



#### **ESG CRITERIA**



How a company impacts the natural world, such as waste management, resource management, and greenhouse gas emissions



❖ A company's attitudes towards diversity, labor standards, workplace health and safety, and human rights



- ✓ A company's governance mechanisms, such as board independence, board diversity, and shareholder rights
- ✓ Investors are increasingly using **ESG** criteria to make investment decisions. Businesses are also integrating **ESG** into their operations and strategies.





#### **GOVERNANCE**

- · Risk mitigation
- Shareholder activism
- Anti-bribery, corruption
- Accountability
- Board independence, diversity
- · Decision-making
- Leadership

#### ENVIRONMENT

- · Biodiversity loss
- · Climate change
- · Renewable energy
- · Reduced carbon emissions
- · Green building
- Deforestation
- · Native title
- Pollution
- · Reduced waste



#### SOCIAL

- Diversity, inclusion, race, gender
- Human rights, modern slavery
- Supply chains
- Anti-discrimination
- Bullying, harassment
- First Nations people, cultural heritage
- Health and safety
- Data privacy





### **SDG~ESG**



SUSTAINABLE GOALS

13 CLIMATE

### **ESG RATING**

CCC B BB BBB A AAA

#### **LAGGARD**

A company lagging its industry based on its high exposure and failure to manage significant ESG risks

#### **AVERAGE**

A company with a mixed or unexceptional track record of managing the most significant ESG risks and opportunities relative to industry peers

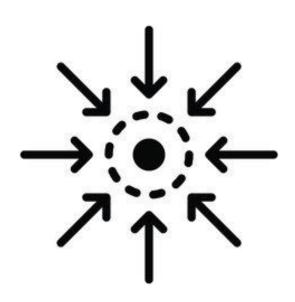
#### **LEADER**

A company leading its industry in managing the most significant ESG risks and opportunities

### **DEFINING IMPACT**

The impact of a **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)** initiative can be defined by assessing the outcomes and benefits generated by the initiative in various areas such as the community, environment, business, and stakeholders. To define and evaluate this impact, several key dimensions can be considered:

- Social Impact
- Environmental Impact
- Economic Impact
- Brand and Reputation Impact
- Alignment with Business Goals
- Long-Term Impact







#### **Methods to Measure CSR Impact:**

- 1. **Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)**: Predefine metrics relevant to each of the dimensions (e.g., tons of CO2 reduced, number of beneficiaries served).
- **2. Surveys and Feedback**: Collect qualitative data from stakeholders, beneficiaries, and employees.
- 3. **Impact Studies and Audits**: Conduct independent audits or studies to validate claims and assess results.
- **4. SROI (Social Return on Investment)**: Calculate the financial value of the social benefits generated by the CSR initiative in relation to the investment made.

### **CSR & ESG REPORTING**

- •Who should measure these results?
- •Which stakeholders care the most?
- •**How** can this reporting support corporate branding and strategies?



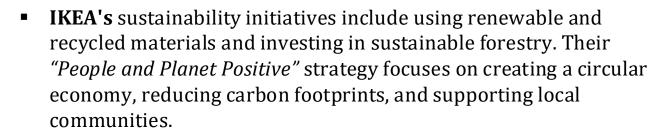
### **STRATEGIES**

- Partnering with sponsors to enhance brand value
- Creating elements of social and environmental sustainability
- Long-term strategies vs. quick impact
- Developing models that create impact while driving revenue
- How CSR and ESG goals can strengthen collaboration opportunities
- > As we will see in the case studies, effective CSR can enhance brand loyalty, drive innovation, and contribute to sustainable development while positively impacting communities and the environment.



### **CASE STUDIES**







The One for One model, where a pair of shoes is donated for every pair sold, has defined **TOMS**. This commitment to social impact has created a strong brand identity and loyal customer base while addressing global issues like poverty.



Microsoft has committed to becoming carbon-negative by 2030. Their initiatives include investing in renewable energy and supporting local communities through various philanthropic efforts, showcasing how tech companies can lead in sustainability.



■ Coca-Cola's World Without Waste initiative aims to collect and recycle a bottle or can for every one sold by 2030. Their focus on sustainable packaging and community engagement has helped improve their environmental footprint and public perception.

### **CASE STUDIES #2**

- **Unilever's Sustainable Living Plan** aims to decouple growth from environmental impact while increasing positive social impact. By promoting sustainable sourcing and reducing waste, they've enhanced brand loyalty and achieved significant cost savings, demonstrating that sustainability can drive business growth.
- Known for its environmental activism, **Patagonia** integrates sustainability into its core business model. The company donates 1% of sales to environmental causes and encourages customers to buy used products through its Worn Wear program. This approach has built a strong brand community and loyalty.
- **Ben & Jerry's** is committed to social justice, advocating for climate change awareness and fair trade practices. Their activism, combined with high-quality products, has helped them maintain a loyal customer base that appreciates their values.
- **Starbucks** has focused on ethical sourcing through its Coffee and Farmer Equity (C.A.F.E.) Practices, ensuring farmers receive fair wages and promoting environmental stewardship. Their commitment to community engagement and employee welfare has also enhanced their brand image.









### **POWER OF SPORTS CSR**

- •Sports teams, leagues and organizations have three key ingredients for CSR success
  - oCelebrity
  - **OPromotion**
  - oMoney.
- Many of their actions receive great publicity:
  - o<u>NBA</u>
    - •players refuse to take the court in support of social justice;
  - o NFL
    - ■1000 players wear their cause on their cleats;
  - OMLB
    - ■50,000 fans fill the stadium with Stand Up to Cancer signs.

#### **SPORT CSR INITIATIVES**

- Premier League Primary Stars
- Homeless World Cup
- Laureus Sport for Good Foundation
- Green Sports Alliance
- Athletes for Hope
- NBA Cares
- NFL's "Play 60"



IOC Refugee Olympic Team

## SPORT BRAND CSR INITIATIVES

Nike: Equality Campaign

Adidas: Run for the Ocean

Puma: Forever Better

New Balance: Climate Neutral Run

•Under Armor: Power in Pink

Reebok: Cotton and Corn

Asics: Earth Day Collection

Patagonia: Worn Wear

Vans: Foot the Bill

•Converse: Renew Collection

Lululemon: Clean Up Day

The North Face: Explore Fund

Saucony: The Run for Good







## OTHER SPORT CSR INITIATIVES

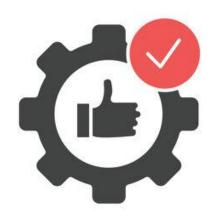
Johan Cryuff Institute





•"You can't do anything alone. You have to do it together." Johan Cruyff.

#### **BEST PRACTICES**



- Align CSR with Core Values
- Engage Stakeholders
- Set Clear Goals and Metrics
- Sustainability Practices
- Ethical Labor Practices
- Community Involvement

### **BEST PRACTICES #2**



- ☐ Transparency and Communication
- Continuous Improvement
- Employee Engagement
- Collaborate and Partner
- Focus on Long-Term Impact
- Corporate Governance

By integrating these practices, companies can create a meaningful CSR strategy that not only benefits society but also enhances their reputation and business performance.

#### PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS

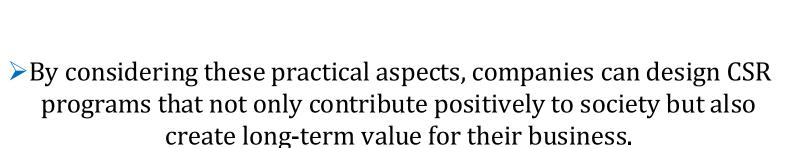
When implementing **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)**, companies must consider both the practical and strategic elements to ensure that CSR initiatives are effective, sustainable, and aligned with business goals. Here are some key practical considerations:

- Alignment with Business Strategy
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Measurable Impact
- Regulatory Compliance
- Resource Allocation
- Sustainability Focus



#### PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS #2

- Risk Management
- Cultural Sensitivity
- Employee Engagement
- Partnerships and Collaboration
- Global vs. Local Focus
- Public Perception and Marketing

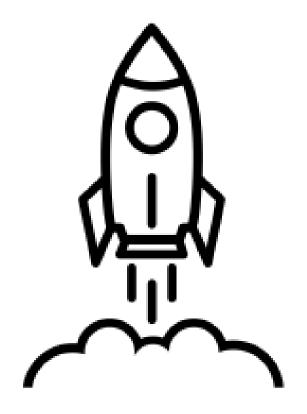




### **GETTING STARTED**

Getting started with **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)** involves creating a strategy that aligns with your company's values, goals, and the interests of stakeholders:

- 1. Understand CSR
- 2. Assess Company Values and Mission
- 3. Engage Stakeholders
- 4. Identify Key Areas of Focus
- 5. Set Clear and Measurable Goals
- 6. Create a CSR Team or Committee
- 7. Develop a CSR Strategy
- 8. Implement Initiatives
- 9. Track and Measure Progress
- 10. Communicate and Celebrate Success
- 11. Continuous Improvement



➤ By following these steps, your company can begin a meaningful CSR journey that benefits both your business and society.

### LIST OF RESOURCES

- List of articles and readings
- More detailed outline and information from presentation bullet points
- •For more information, contact:
  - •Roy Kessel, Founder, Sports Philanthropy Network
    - rkessel@sportsloop.com
    - **312-498-4653**
  - Kayla Bradham, Executive Vice President, SPN
    - kbradham@sportsloop.com
    - **414-759-8986**



# **Questions & Answers**

#### **SAVE THE DATE!**

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