

---

**A GREEK CONTESTANT UNFURLED THE SO-CALLED PONTUS FLAG ON THE OFFICIAL PODIUM OF A SPORTS COMPETITION IN ISTANBUL**

-

24.03.2023

---

At a time when far-right groups such as Golden Dawn are on the rise in Northern Greece and Western Thrace, the Greek sportswoman Maria Panagiotidou, who earned first places in three categories at the Balkan Masters Indoor Championship held in Istanbul on 18-19 March, displayed a behavior incompatible with sports ethics by unfurling the so-called Pontus flag on the official podium. This and similar actions are provocations that insult the host country and undermine the capacity of sports to develop friendships. It is not known whether the said contestant was warned by the responsible managers of the participating Greek team or the organizers of the sports tournament.

---

Kaynak/Source: