



TAFISA
The Association For International Sport for All

SAFEGUARDING IN SPORT FOR ALL GUIDELINES





Are you taking all necessary steps to maintain **safety for participants and individuals** involved in sports within your organisation?

Have you implemented measures to ensure a **safe and secure environment** for those participating in your sport?

Our **safeguarding guidelines** provide information on safeguarding practices and offer guidance on creating a safe environment.



SAFEGUARDING IN SPORT FOR ALL

GUIDELINES

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WHY SAFEGUARDING IN SPORT FOR ALL

Enjoyable and Safe Environment

Sports should be enjoyable, satisfying, and secure, providing participants with a positive environment to perform their best and reap the benefits of physical activity.

Challenges Addressed

Instances of abuse, mismanagement, sexual harassment, bullying, racism, and discrimination in sports often go unnoticed, leading to negative experiences and premature exits from the field, particularly affecting women and girls.

Negative Impact

Unsafe practices discourage participation, hinder physical activity promotion, and result in the untimely departure of individuals from sports, undermining inclusivity and community retention efforts.



RECOGNISE AND RESPOND

TO SAFEGUARD CONCERNS, ABUSE AND HARM

Safeguarding Concerns

- Behavior of adults or participants (athlete, coach, volunteer, etc.)
- Athlete interactions, including bullying
- Recruitment risks, like criminal records
- Allegations, information from agencies, media
- Concerns beyond sports, impacting participants' safety

Response Approach

- Promote consent awareness
- Encourage reporting - no incidents overlooked
- Establish secure reporting processes
- Share contacts for safeguarding concerns
- Foster an environment for open communication



CREATING A SAFEGUARING CULTURE IN YOUR ORGANISATION

It is essential for Sport for All organisations to have clear guidance on safety and safeguarding procedures.

- Response Approach
- Have an effective safeguarding framework and policy
- Develop safeguarding advocates for early conversations about your organisation's desired outcomes for safeguarding
- Ensure that all staff & volunteers have appropriate training
- Event planning
- Formalise a system for reporting concerns
- Other measures

SAFEGUARDING HELP AND ADVICE

HOW SPORT FOR ALL ORGANISATIONS CAN MAKE PARTICIPATION IN SPORT A SAFE ENVIRONMENT FOR ALL.

- ✓ **ANTI-BULLYING, ABUSE & HARASSMENT**
Every participant has the right to experience sport in a safe environment, free from abuse and harassment.
- ✓ **SUPPORTIVE COACHING**
Coaches and athletes/participants should have safe interactions promoting mental health and well-being.
- ✓ **SAFEGUARDING MEASURES**
You are ensuring the safety of your sport by implementing necessary precautions to prevent potential risks.
- ✓ **MAKING SPORT ACCESSIBLE**
Comprehend how and why vulnerable communities are susceptible to abuse and harassment and identify effective measures that can be taken to alleviate these issues.
- ✓ **ATHLETES' RIGHTS**
Athletes should be safe and protected from abuse, violence and neglect.
- ✓ **HONESTY, OPENNESS, RESPECT**
Sport for All organisations to promote respect for all individuals and establish clear and transparent systems that prioritise openness, honesty and integrity.



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CREATING A SAFEGUARDING CULTURE IN YOUR ORGANISATION

Guide for Coaches and Officials

- People who work or volunteer for Sport for All events and organisations, whether at the grassroots, professional, or school level, are in a position of trust. They are responsible for ensuring all participants' safety, health and well-being and maintaining a secure and safe environment for sports and physical activities.
- Sports leaders must be aware of their legal responsibilities in their positions of authority.
- Coaches are responsible for guaranteeing that all equipment is suitable and secure for its intended purpose. It should also be appropriate for the age group using it. People should receive a complete introduction to all equipment and understand how to use it safely.
- When running sport sessions, coaches must also ensure that children are matched appropriately in size and ability.
- Coaches and officials must recognise that their personal and professional conduct can potentially damage the reputation of the safeguarding programme.



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- They should treat all participants with dignity and respect when reporting their issues.
- Coaches and officials mustn't engage in, condone, or tolerate a form of harassment, intimidation, abuse, or exploitation in sport. Additionally, they should not support any illegal conduct that could damage the sport's reputation.
- Coaches and officials must challenge inappropriate conduct directly and responsibly. In addition, report all concerns to safeguarding officers.
- Coaches and officials should understand that making intentional false or misleading allegations against athletes, sports officers, or their colleagues is severe and goes against safeguarding principles.



CREATING A SAFEGUARDING CULTURE

IN YOUR ORGANISATION

Guide for Athletes and Participants

- 01 STOP ABUSE**
Take all signs of abuse seriously and report them, however small.
- 02 MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD**
Be involved in decision-making that directly affects you, and act responsibly. Your voice contributes to playing sports in a safe environment.
- 03 DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION**
Ensure potential obstacles to participation are overcome, be inclusive and acknowledge and appreciate differences between you and other athletes.

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04 TAKING CARE OF YOURSELF
Follow some self-care advice and maintain positive mental health; promote the details of mental health support services and make them available to young people.

05 REPORTING NON-RECENT ABUSE
You can still report non-recent abuse, and sports organisations should respond to it.

06 WHISTLEBLOWING
Have the confidence to come forward to speak or act if they're unhappy with anything; raises a concern about dangerous or illegal activity or any wrongdoing within their sport organisation.





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