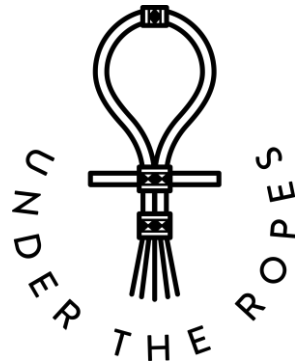


A MULTI-LAYERED PERSPECTIVE ON CULTIVATING SAFER SPORT CULTURES



Emma Thomas

ABOUT ME



Former Muay Thai fighter
Survivor-Advocate
Safeguarding Consultant



Trustee, Safe Sport International

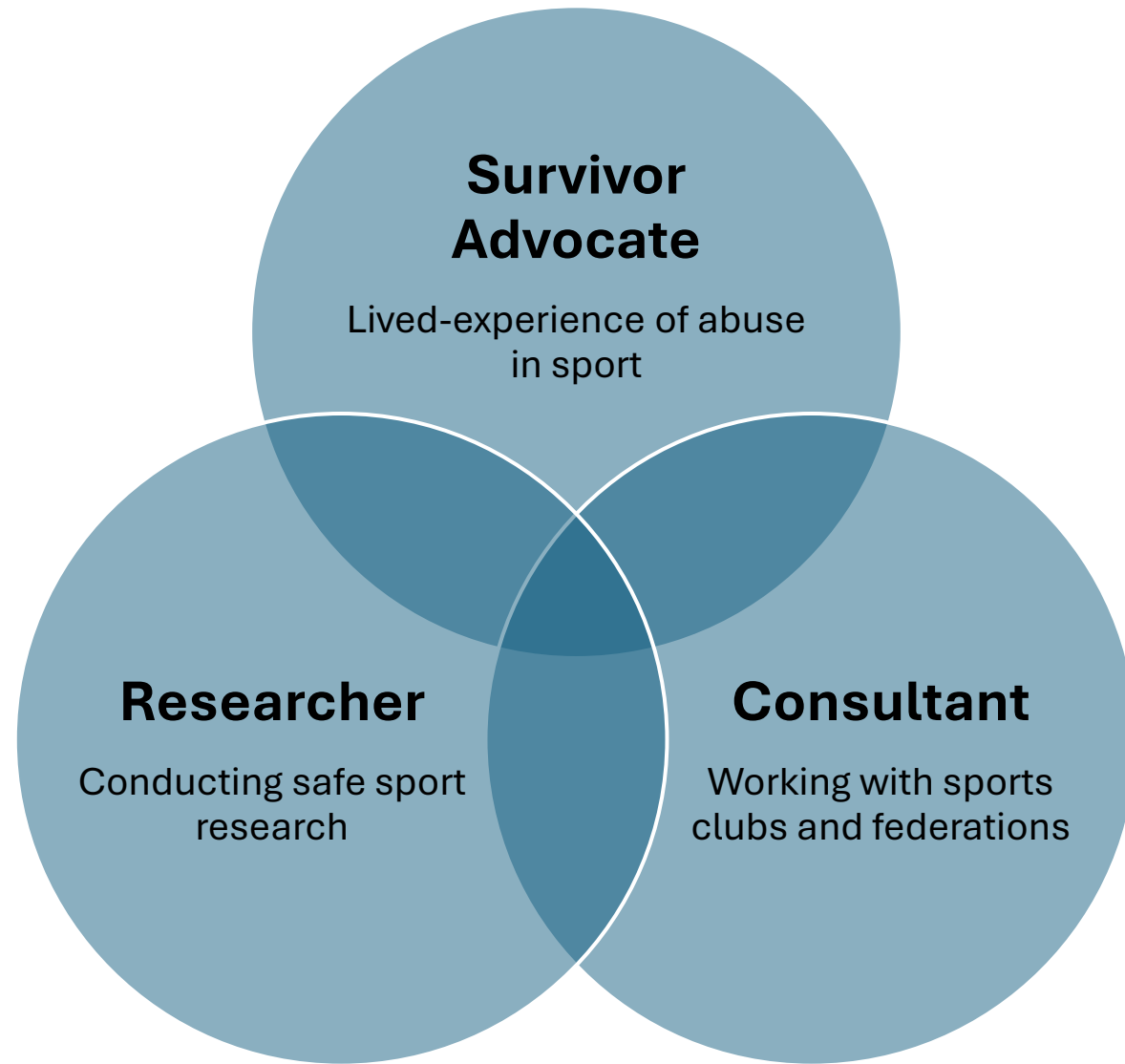


Member of the Advisory Council for the Athletes' Network for Safer Sports



MA Sports Ethics & Integrity





SURVIVOR ADVOCACY

WHAT I SEE NOW:

- Survivors' perspectives aren't prioritised
- Survivors aren't valued or compensated
- Survivor engagement often creates further harm.
- Survivors are often burdened with the responsibility to 'fix' or educate.

"Enough with asking survivors to work for free. Elevate their voices, honor their wisdom, put their needs first. And compensate them for their time and expertise."



Joanna Maranhão
Network Coordinator
Sport & Rights Alliance



WHAT I WANT TO SEE MORE OF:

- Engaging with survivors in ways that are trauma-informed, ethical, meaningful and collaborative.
 - From consultation to co-creation



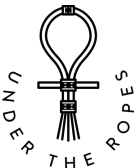
CONSULTANCY

WHAT I SEE NOW:

- Sub-threshold harms are overlooked
- Policies are outdated (e.g. terminology, failure to recognise adult safeguarding or online abuse)
- Gaps between policy and practical application
- Safeguarding officers alone are burdened with organisational responsibility
- “We’ve got it covered”/ “We don’t have those problems”

WHAT I WANT TO SEE MORE OF:

- Contextualised, sport-specific safeguarding approaches tailored to community needs
 - Policies and practices informed by the voices of their community members
 - Reflecting on gaps and failures
 - Collaboration



RESEARCH

Participant perspectives

On sporting culture:

“It was the culture, it wasn’t just that one guy”.

“It's just such a cultural issue more than an organisational issue”.

On current safeguarding policies:

“I don't think that they're effective or fit for purpose. I think that they're just something to cover their tracks in case a lawsuit ever came their way [...] Unless it really affects them, I don't think they take it that seriously”.

WHAT I SEE NOW:

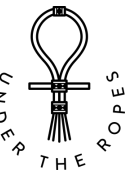
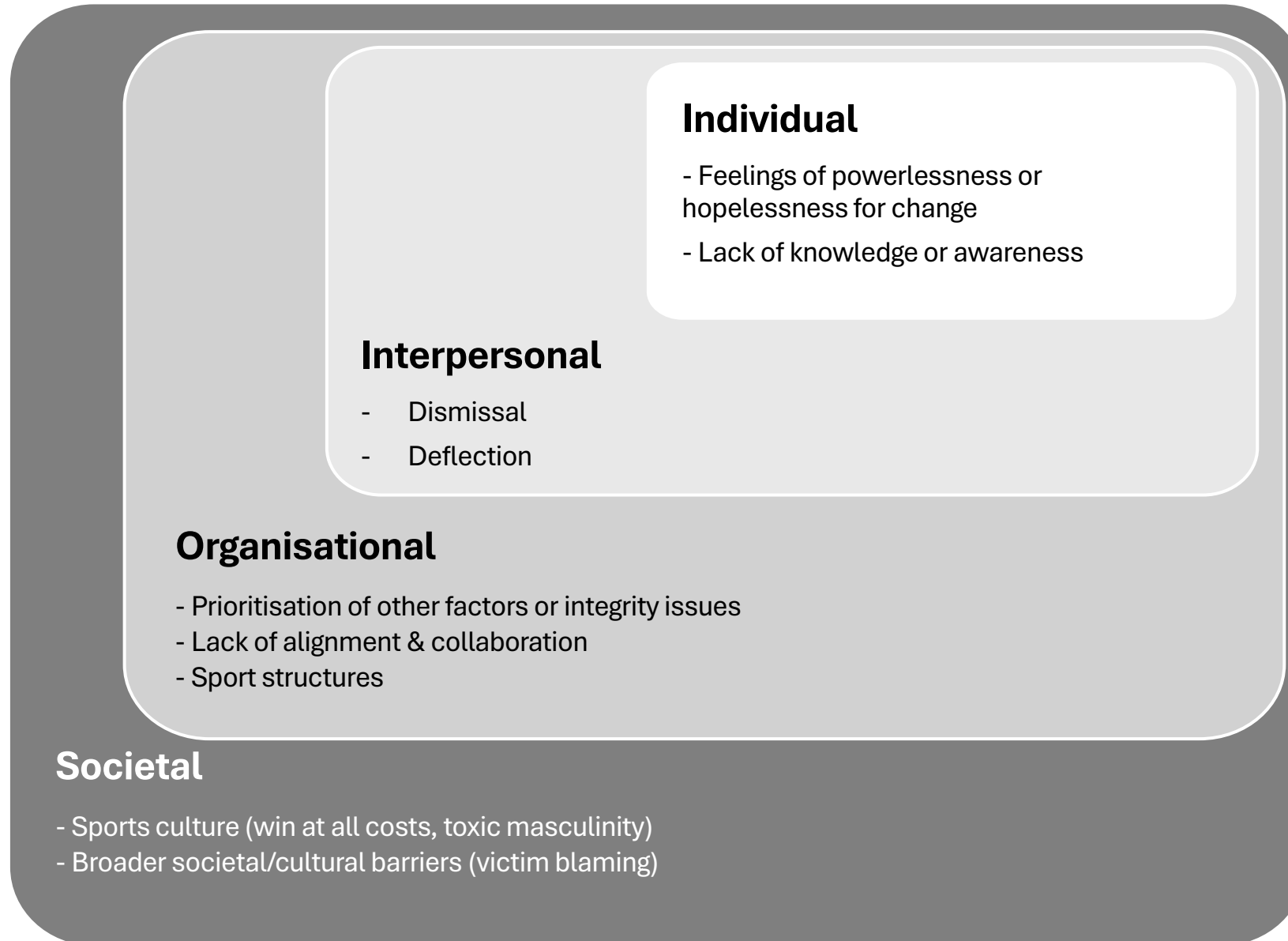
- Athletes don’t trust organisations or their policies
- Policies are seen as performative, ineffective or self-serving
- Policies mean nothing without access and implementation

WHAT I WANT TO SEE MORE OF:

- Organisations working to build trust through meaningful action
 - Addressing cultural factors in and beyond sport



BARRIERS ACROSS SOCIOECOLOGICAL LEVELS



PRIORITIES

COURAGE

CO-CREATION

CARE

