

SNAPSHOT OF SAFEGUARDING IN INTERNATIONAL TABLE TENNIS

**'Safe on Paper, Unsafe in Practice:
Building a Culture of Safeguarding in Sport for All'**

TAFISA Mission 2030 webinar



ITTF.com

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Head of Integrity

Tuesday 22nd September 2026

My background



ITTF INTEGRITY UNIT

ITTF Statutes

1. To investigate and prosecute infringement of the matters relating to compliance, discipline and integrity before the ITTF Tribunal or such other competent and recognised judicial body.
2. To educate Table Tennis Parties on integrity matters.
3. To otherwise protect and uphold the integrity of Table Tennis.

Mission

**To Keep Table Tennis Fair,
Safe, and Clean**

Safeguarding

All proactive measures to both prevent and appropriately respond to concerns related to harassment and abuse in sport.

Safe Sport

A physically and psychologically safe and supportive environment where participants can thrive and experience the full benefits of sport participation.

Inclusion

Practice of ensuring that individuals from diverse backgrounds and abilities are actively integrated and valued within various social contexts.

SAFEGUARDING ACROSS THE ITTF GROUP



- ✓ Successful investigation of allegations
- ✓ Gender Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (GEDI) Action Plan
 - ✓ Child Rights in Elite Sport
 - ✓ TT4Change programme grantees

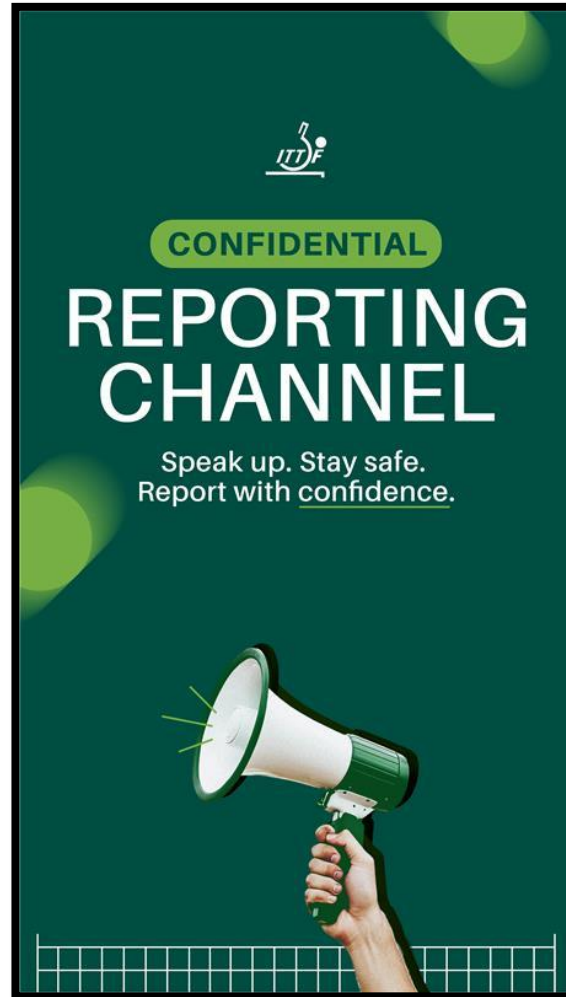
Obligations & Duties

Duty to report

The Table Tennis Parties who become aware of any violation shall promptly inform the ITTF Integrity Unit.

Duty to cooperate

The Table Tennis Parties shall fully assist and cooperate with honesty, confidentiality, and in good faith with the ITTF Integrity Unit at all times, regardless of whether they are involved in a particular matter as a party, as a witness, or in any other role.



SCAN ME

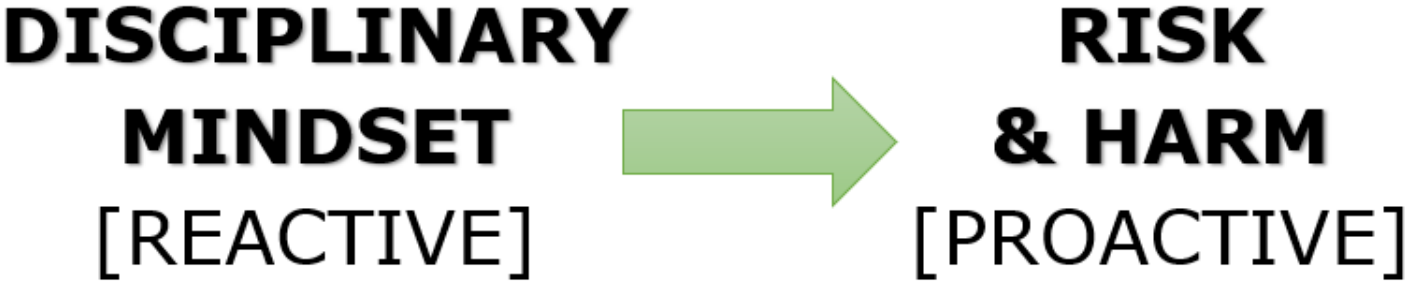
2022 Council meeting, Jordan

Proposition

“Development of a new comprehensive safe sport policy bespoke for table tennis to be included in the ITTF Handbook replacing both the Anti-Harassment Policy and Procedures and Child Safeguarding Policy in their entirety.”

Rationale

“The ITTF needs a new comprehensive approach to safe sport in table tennis, which will mean regulatory, policy and cultural change backed by education.”



Current Regulatory Framework

Primary

Anti-Harassment Policy and Procedures
Child Safeguarding Policy

Secondary

Code of Ethics
WTT Handbook

NOT FIT FOR PURPOSE



INTERNATIONAL SAFEGUARDS FOR CHILDREN IN SPORT



1 – A policy with a clear commitment to safe sport and safeguarding.



2 – Systems and procedures to respond to safeguarding concerns.



3 – Advice and support to help people to play their part in safeguarding.



4 – A risk management approach to reduce the possibility of harm.



5 – A code of conduct with guidelines for behaviour.



6 – Safer recruitment practices and ongoing training for all.



7 – Partnership working to encourage implementation of safeguarding.



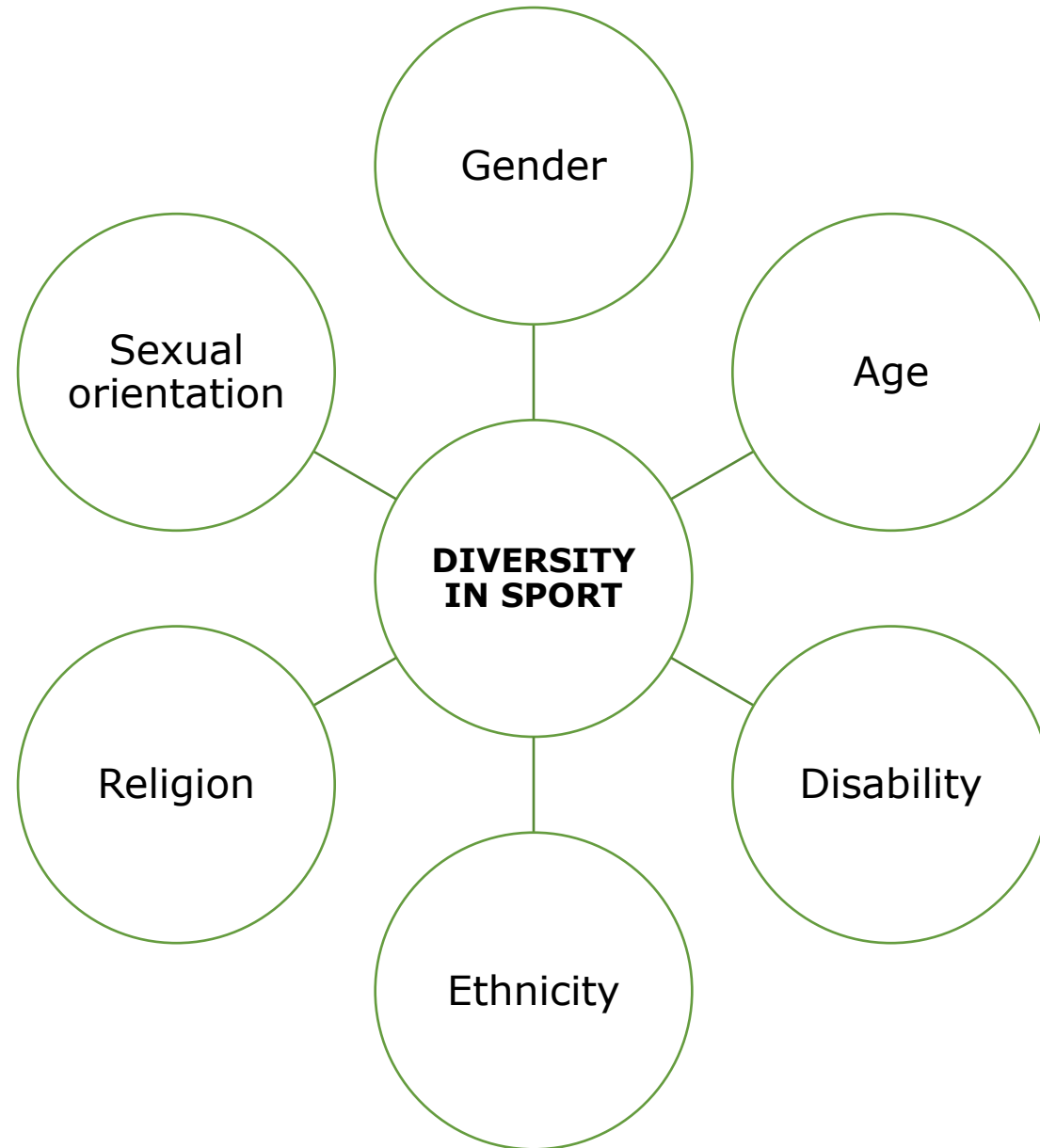
8 – On-going monitoring to identify improvements or patterns of risk.



SAFEGUARDING ADULTS IN SPORT

8 Safeguards

- 01 - Developing your policy
- 02 - Developing a system to respond to safeguarding concerns
- 03 - Advice and Support
- 04 - Minimising Risks to Adults
- 05 - Guidelines on Behaviour
- 06 - Recruiting, training and communicating
- 07 - Working with partners
- 08 - Monitoring and evaluation



Inclusive Sport Environments

- An inclusive sports environment fosters belonging and safety for all participants, regardless of ability, background, or identity, by eliminating physical and social barriers.
- “Creating inclusive sports is ‘the right thing to do’ because, ultimately, it nurtures a society that gives everyone a sense of belonging.”
- “Being part of an inclusive sport environment gives individuals positive social and health outcomes. It provides a space where diverse groups can build trust in one another, helping to break down social and cultural stigmas or barriers, and strengthen overall community connections.”
- “In inclusive environments, no one has to change to fit in. [Leaders] and administrators play a lead role in creating this environment to support [participants] of all abilities, races, backgrounds, and identities.”

UN Women Sport for Generation Equality Initiative

IN BRIEF: GUIDELINES FOR GENDER-RESPONSIVE
SPORTS ORGANIZATIONS



Martha Vieira da Silva, UN Women Good Will Ambassador
Photo: Ryan Brown, UN Women

PRINCIPLE

01 

Undertake efforts to promote women's leadership and gender equality in governance models



Photo: Gonzalo Ball/UN Women

PRINCIPLE

02 

Undertake efforts to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls in and through sports



Photo: Caitlin Clifton/UN Women

PRINCIPLE

03 

Undertake to close the gap in investment in women's sport and promote equal economic opportunities for women and girls



Photo: Thomas Wolf/Reuters/UN Women

PRINCIPLE

 **04**

Undertake efforts to promote women's equal participation and bias-free representation in sports media, including communications to eliminate harmful gender stereotypes and promote positive role models



Photo: Courtney Gaud/2020/UN Women

PRINCIPLE

 **05**

Undertake efforts to support equal opportunities for girls in sports, physical activity and physical education



Photo: Paul Thompson/Thomson/UN Women

PRINCIPLE

 **06**

Agree to monitor and publicly report on progress on an annual basis



People



Planet



Prosperity

ITTF GROUP Sustainability

Gender Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (GEDI)

GEDI ACTION PLAN 2025

*Approved
17 March
2023*



THANK YOU & ANY QUESTIONS?



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