![SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN IN SPORT logo]

Good Practices in Children's Safeguarding

Report

Content

INTRODUCTION

This document presents the results of an in-depth study focusing on the Good Practices for the Protection of Children's Rights in Sport. The research draws upon a broad compilation of European and international practices, comprising policy documents, strategic frameworks, guidelines, and operational tools adopted by various sports organisations. These elements are crucial in strengthening the capacity of these organisations to actively promote, protect, and safeguard children's rights, particularly within the context of sports, which often serves as a pivotal space for children's physical, social, and psychological development.

The central aim of the study is to provide a comprehensive overview of the measures undertaken by leading organisations to combat the numerous forms of **maltreatment, abuse, and neglect** that children may experience in sporting environments. These forms of harm can range from physical and emotional abuse to neglect and exploitation, which remain critical concerns in youth sports today. By documenting and analysing the actions and policies of these organisations, this study contributes to a deeper understanding of how safeguarding strategies can be effectively implemented to ensure that children's rights are protected across all levels of sports participation.

To rigorously analyse the collected documents, the study employed NVivo software, a widely recognised tool for Computer-Assisted Qualitative Data Analysis (CAQDAS). This software facilitated the organisation, management, and exploration of the data, allowing for the identification of recurrent themes and categories across the collected materials. Through a detailed coding process, 11 key concepts*were identified, which serve as the foundation for the thematic analysis presented in this report. These concepts are pivotal to understanding the current landscape of child protection policies in sport and the various approaches used to address safeguarding challenges.

The report's structure is methodically organised to guide the reader through the complex array of themes related to child protection in sport. It begins with a foundational section on the **Definition of Abuse, Violence, and Discrimination**, which establishes a clear understanding of the types of harmful behaviours that safeguarding policies aim to prevent. This is followed by exploring the broader **Strategy for the Rights of the Child**, highlighting how international standards and frameworks guide the development of child protection policies within the sports sector.

Subsequent sections of the report delve into more specific aspects of safeguarding, including **Child-Safe Reporting Mechanisms**, which are crucial for ensuring that children and their advocates have clear and accessible channels for reporting incidents of abuse or misconduct. The report also examines **Child Safeguarding Policies** in detail, providing concrete examples of safeguarding policy statements that sports organisations have successfully implemented. These examples illustrate how organisations can formalise their commitment to child protection through clear and enforceable policies.

In addition to policy development, the report discusses the critical roles played by designated safeguarding bodies, such as the **Safeguarding Group** and the **Safeguarding Officer.** These entities oversee the implementation of safeguarding policies, ensuring that they are consistently applied, and that any reported incidents are addressed swiftly and effectively. The report also includes insights from relevant **Erasmus+ projects**, which offer examples of European collaborative efforts to improve child protection in sport through education, training, and policy innovation.

In the final sections, the report provides practical **Guidelines for the Development of Organizational Models** that can be tailored to the specific needs of different sports organisations. It includes **Reporting Flowcharts** that outline the steps for reporting and responding to incidents of abuse or misconduct, which can be adapted to local and organisational procedures. These flowcharts serve as a practical tool for ensuring that safeguarding policies are not only well-designed but also actionable in real-world scenarios.

The document concludes with an overview of the **key tools and resources** available to sports organisations to help them prevent, recognise, and respond to critical situations related to child safeguarding. These tools include training programs, risk assessment frameworks, and support services for both children and adults involved in sports.

Overall, this study examined 31 documents from a range of organisations, each contributing to the broader understanding of how safeguarding practices can be effectively implemented to protect children's rights in sports. By analysing these documents, this report offers valuable insights into the evolving landscape of child protection in sport and provides a roadmap for sports organisations looking to enhance their safeguarding efforts. The findings and recommendations presented here aim to support the creation of safer, more inclusive environments where children can fully enjoy the benefits of sports without fear of harm or mistreatment.

Finally, the document presents a description of the **methodology** used in the analysis of Good practices, which provides an in-depth basis for the experiences and tools presented in the text.

Figure 1 Word cloud of the most frequent words in the analysed documents.

This document is part of the CRC Sport project. The project stands at the forefront of a transformative movement within the European sports community. Our mission is clear: to empower sports organisations to uphold the fundamental rights of children participating in sports activities.

Aligned with the European Union's directives and recommendations, CRC Sport embarks on a pioneering journey to protect the integrity, values, and dignity of young and children. Our project is rooted in the belief that sports organisations bear a profound responsibility in shaping the future of the new generations.

For further information, please refer to:

https://crcsport.isca.org

DEFINITIONS OF ABUSE, VIOLENCE AND DISCRIMINATION

The imperative to commence with a unified lexicon is manifest. A glossary has been derived from the analysed documents to delineate the terms 'abuse', 'violence', and 'discrimination'.

Abuse:
Abuse is the violation of one's human and civil rights or action or deliberate inaction that results in neglect and/or physical, sexual and emotional harm. Abuse can be perpetrated by one or more people (either known or unknown to the victim) or can take the form of institutional abuse within an organisation; it can be a single or repeated act.

The Child Protection in Sport Unit (CPSU) in the UK defines child abuse as "any form of physical, emotional or sexual mistreatment or lack of care that leads to injury or harm". It commonly occurs within a relationship of trust or responsibility and is an abuse of power or a breach of trust. Abuse can happen to a child regardless of their age, gender, race or ability. Abusers can be adults (male or female) and other young people, and are usually known to and trusted by the child and family.

Children suffering abuse often experience more than one type of abuse. The abuse usually happens over a period time, rather than being a single, isolated incident. Increasingly, abuse can happen online. Common forms of child abuse are: physical, psychological, sexual abuse, neglect, and sexual exploitation, which are described below.

These forms of child abuse are also described as relational maltreatment, which occurs when there is a pattern of abusive or neglectful behaviors within a critical relationship, a relationship in which one individual is dependent, fully or in part, on another individual for her or his sense of safety, trust and fulfilment of needs.

The World Health Organisation (2019) describes child maltreatment as "all forms of physical and/or emotional ill-treatment, sexual abuse, neglect or negligent treatment or commercial or other exploitation, resulting in actual or potential harm to the child's health, survival, development or dignity in the context of a relationship of responsibility, trust or power".

Violence:
In 2019, the World Health Organization (WHO) articulated a comprehensive definition of violence, characterizing it as "the intentional employment of physical force or power, whether threatened or actual, directed towards oneself, another individual, or against a group or community, which either results in or is likely to result in harm, death, psychological damage, maldevelopment, or deprivation."

Furthermore, the World Report on Violence and Health (WRVH) elaborates on this definition by introducing a typology of violence that encompasses physical, sexual, and psychological assault (termed psychological violence), in addition to deprivation (encompassing neglect and negligence). This typology further categorizes violence into three sub-types based on the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator. Specifically, self-directed violence is identified as violence in which the perpetrator and the victim are the same person, further categorized into self-abuse and suicide.

The term "gender-based violence" is also pivotal within the discourse on violence. Initially employed synonymously with violence against women, the evolution of understanding surrounding violence perpetrated against men has led to an expansion of this term's definition. It now encompasses acts of violence directed against individuals based on their gender (inclusive of gender identity/expression) or acts that disproportionately affect individuals of a specific gender. This definition is widely adopted by key international bodies such as UN Women, the Council of Europe, and the European Union, reflecting a broader and more inclusive understanding of violence within contemporary discussions.

Discrimination:
The International Charter of Physical Education and Sport adopted by UNESCO in 2015 states that "Every human being has a fundamental right to physical education, physical activity and sport without discrimination on the basis of ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, language, religion, political or other opinion."
Discrimination can be defined as the unjust, prejudicial and unfair treatment of different categories of people, especially on the grounds of their gender, athletic ability, athletic longevity, race, social class, age, sexual orientation, religion or disabilities.
Because of their smaller size and relative lack of power, it is often difficult for children to challenge discriminatory practices. Harassment and exclusion in sport on the basis of gender, race, sexual orientation and disability has been the subject of academic studies, but very few of these have focused explicitly on children.

STRATEGY FOR THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD: A GOOD EXAMPLE

A strategy encompasses a comprehensive plan designed to achieve long-term objectives. In the realm of promoting children's rights, the Council of Europe has taken a significant step forward by developing the "Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child" for the period of 2022-2027. This pivotal document emerged from an extensive drafting process, reflecting a deep commitment to enhancing the well-being and rights of children across Europe.

The strategy document serves as an invaluable guide, particularly aimed at engaging children and young people aged between 12 to 17 years. It seeks to educate them about the core goals of the Council of Europe's Strategy for the Rights of the Child, thereby fostering a sense of awareness and empowerment among the younger generation regarding their rights and the mechanisms in place to protect those rights.

Notably, the development of this strategy was not conducted in isolation; it actively incorporated inputs from children and young people. This inclusive approach ensured that the strategy resonates more effectively with its intended audience, making it a pioneering example of participatory policy-making. The contributions from young individuals have enriched the strategy, making it more relevant and grounded in the real experiences and aspirations of children and youth.

For those interested in delving deeper into how children and young people's perspectives were integrated into the strategy, a dedicated report titled "Report on child consultations informing the formulation of the Strategy for the Rights of the Child" is available[1]. This document offers a detailed account of the consultation process, highlighting the voices of children and young people and the impact of their proposals on the final strategy. It stands as a testament to the Council of Europe's commitment to not only safeguarding the rights of the child but also actively involving children in the creation of policies that affect their lives.

CHILD SAFE REPORTING: the example of the Australian Sport Commission

The Child Safe Reporting checklist, created by the Australian Sports Commission (ASC), is a practical tool designed to guide sports organizations in protecting children from harm. It serves as part of a larger framework aimed at ensuring safe environments for children in sports, focusing on clear and efficient reporting procedures when issues of safety arise. By providing an organized structure, the checklist ensures that all parties involved, including coaches, staff, volunteers, and administrators, understand the steps necessary when suspicions or allegations of abuse or misconduct are brought forward.

A significant aspect of the checklist is its focus on prompt action. Any reports of child maltreatment, neglect, or other safety concerns must be addressed quickly to prevent further harm. The procedure outlined ensures that incidents are not only reported efficiently but also acted upon in a timely manner. The checklist also emphasizes the need for accessible reporting channels, ensuring that children, their parents, and staff know exactly how to report concerns, and to whom those concerns should be directed. This includes identifying specific Child Safeguarding Officers or external authorities responsible for handling such reports.

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[1] https://www.defenceforchildren.it/easyUp/file/council_of_europe_child_consultations_to.pdf

Additionally, the checklist highlights the importance of confidentiality. To build trust within the organization, it is crucial that sensitive information is handled with care, protecting the privacy of those involved while still ensuring that the matter is fully investigated. This helps ensure that individuals, especially children and their families, feel comfortable coming forward with concerns without fear of retaliation or exposure.

Another essential element in the checklist is its attention to proper documentation. Sports organizations are encouraged to keep detailed records of all reports, including the actions taken in response to each report, creating a clear trail of accountability. This promotes consistent handling of cases and supports organizational transparency, making sure every issue is addressed with the same level of diligence and seriousness.

The checklist also recommends that sports organizations provide regular training for staff and volunteers, equipping them with the knowledge necessary to recognize signs of abuse, appropriately respond to disclosures, and navigate the reporting system. Educating staff in these areas fosters a proactive culture, helping prevent potential issues before they escalate into serious concerns.

In conclusion, the Child Safe Reporting checklist by the ASC is a vital tool for sports organizations aiming to safeguard children. By providing clear reporting structures, promoting confidentiality, and encouraging training, it helps create an environment where children's safety is a top priority. Implementing this tool allows organizations to respond quickly and effectively to any risks, ensuring that sports remain a positive and protective space for children to thrive.

CHILD SAFEGUARDING POLICY

Child Safeguarding Policies within the realm of sport represent a comprehensive suite of measures aimed at ensuring the welfare and protection of young participants. These policies have been collated from a diverse array of documents provided by a range of institutions and organisations, including but not limited to the CSI (Italian Sport Centre), International Dance Organization (IDO), Save The Children, Australian Sports Commission, FIFA, and the collaborative network Safe Place Safe Play, which features prominent entities such as the University G. d'Annunzio University of Chieti-Pescara, CONI Abruzzo, and various departments from the Abruzzo Region.

The essence of Child Safeguarding Policies transcends mere procedural adherence, instilling a culture of vigilant care and protection across all levels of sports organisation. It mandates that everyone involved — from volunteers and managers to referees, competition judges, and technical staff — adhere to stringent standards of conduct. These standards explicitly prohibit

a range of harmful behaviours including psychological abuse, physical abuse, sexual harassment and abuse, bullying, discriminatory behaviours, and neglect.

A significant contribution to the framework of child safeguarding in sports has been made by the Australian Sports Commission through the formulation of ten National Principles for Child Safe Organisations. These principles foster an environment where child safety and well-being are integral to the organisational ethos, leadership, and governance.

1. Leadership and culture: the principle underscores the importance of embedding child safety and well-being into the DNA of the organisation, influencing governance and cultural practices.

2. Empowerment of children: it stresses the need for children and young people to be educated about their rights, involved in decisions that impact them, and assured that their voices are heard and taken seriously.

3. Family and community engagement: this principle advocates for the active involvement of families and communities in the promotion of child safety and well-being.

4. Equity and respect: a commitment to uphold equity and address the diverse needs of children through respectful policies and practices.

5. Suitability of staff: ensuring that individuals working with children are not only suitable for their roles but also embody the values of child safety and well-being in their conduct.

6. Child-focused complaints process: the adoption of complaint and concern processes that prioritise the well-being and perspectives of children.

7. Staff training and education: continuous education and training for staff and volunteers to equip them with the necessary knowledge and skills for child protection.

8. Safe environments: the creation of both physical and online spaces that minimise risks to children and enhance their safety and well-being.

9. Continuous improvement: a commitment to the regular review and enhancement of child safeguarding implementations.

10. **documented policies and procedures**: maintaining comprehensive documentation that delineates how the organisation ensures its environment is safe for children.

In essence, these principles form a robust framework that, when effectively implemented, significantly contribute to the creation of a safe and nurturing environment for children and young people in sports. It is imperative that sports organisations adhere to these guidelines

to foster an atmosphere of trust and safety, thus enabling young athletes to thrive both on and off the field.

EXAMPLE OF A SAFEGUARDING POLICY STATEMENT

The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) provides a quintessential example of a safeguarding policy statement. This serves as a crucial template for organizations, underscoring the imperative need to embed safeguarding at the core of their operations.

This illustrative example offers a foundational blueprint for crafting a document that meticulously caters to the safeguarding requirements of children and young people engaged with the organization. It is designed to align seamlessly with other critical safeguarding, organizational policies, procedures, and standards, ensuring a comprehensive and cohesive approach to child protection.

Organizations are encouraged to personalize this template, tailoring it to reflect the unique needs and circumstances of the children and young people they serve, while simultaneously ensuring it resonates with the overarching goals and regulatory frameworks governing child welfare and safety. This not only reinforces the organization's commitment to safeguarding but also enhances the effectiveness of their protective measures, creating a safer environment for all involved.

AN INTERESTING INITIATIVE: THE SAFEGUARDING GROUP

The Safeguarding Group, a pivotal initiative by the International Cricket Council (ICC), underscores the global body's commitment to the integrity and safety within the sport of cricket. The ICC, serving as the international federation overseeing cricket's global governance, recognizes the paramount importance of safeguarding participants and stakeholders from any form of harm or misconduct.

To actualize this commitment, the ICC has established a dedicated group of individuals, known collectively as the Safeguarding Group. Membership of this group is selective, with criteria ensuring that each member possesses the qualifications and integrity necessary to contribute effectively to the group's objectives. The composition of the Safeguarding Group includes an independent chairperson and a minimum of eight other independent experts in safeguarding. These individuals are meticulously selected by the Safeguarding Chairperson based on their extensive expertise in various relevant fields such as legal affairs, law enforcement, social work, crime management, and sports administration.

The role of the Safeguarding Chairperson extends to the appointment of a Deputy Safeguarding Chairperson from within the group. This strategic appointment ensures the continuity and efficiency of leadership within the Safeguarding Group.

The core mission of the Safeguarding Group, and by extension the Safeguarding Panel when convened, is to meticulously review and deliberate on referrals made by the ICC General Counsel. This process underscores the proactive and responsive measures put in place to address concerns related to safeguarding within the sport.

In support of its functions, the Safeguarding Group and any Safeguarding Panel that may be convened are assured of administrative and secretarial backing provided by the ICC. This support can also be extended through alternative arrangements made by the ICC, ensuring that the group has all necessary resources to fulfill its mandate effectively.

This initiative not only highlights the ICC's dedication to maintaining the highest standards of safety and integrity in cricket but also sets a benchmark for sports organizations worldwide in safeguarding the welfare of all participants.

SAFEGUARDING OFFICER

World Athletics and the Italian Union of Sport for all have introduced the role of the Safeguarding Officer. This pivotal position is dedicated to the prevention and mitigation of abuse, violence, and discrimination within the sports context.

The Safeguarding Officer is pivotal in enforcing safeguarding policies and plays a crucial role in monitoring and addressing potential situations of danger or abuse. This responsibility is carried out in alignment with the legal boundaries and competences of the sports justice system. Moreover, the officer is tasked with implementing preventative measures to foster a safe and inclusive environment for all athletes and participants.

This initiative signifies a proactive approach towards creating a safer sporting environment, emphasizing the importance of not only responding to incidents but also preventing them from occurring. Through the establishment of this role, World Athletics and UISP demonstrate their commitment to the well-being and protection of athletes, ensuring that sports venues are places of respect, equality, and safety.

The establishment of the Safeguarding Officer role is a significant step forward in the sports world. It underscores a shared commitment to uphold the highest standards of safety, respect, and dignity for all participants. This role is not just about compliance or following protocols; it's about nurturing a culture that values and protects every individual's rights and well-being.

In addition to their responsibilities in prevention and intervention, Safeguarding Officers are also instrumental in educating and raising awareness among athletes, coaches, and staff about the importance of safeguarding in sports. They serve as a critical resource for information and support, offering guidance on how to recognize signs of abuse or misconduct and encouraging an environment where people feel empowered to speak up.

This initiative reflects a broader movement within the sports community to address and eliminate all forms of abuse, violence, and discrimination. It's a call to action for other sports organizations to adopt similar measures and contribute to a global effort to ensure that sports can be a force for good, providing a safe space for everyone to enjoy and excel in.

By prioritizing the safety and well-being of its participants, World Athletics and UISP are setting a new standard for what it means to be a part of the global sports community. It's a commendable approach that hopefully inspires others to follow suit, making the world of sports a beacon of integrity, inclusivity, and respect.

ERASMUS+ PROJECTS and EU INITIATIVES: focus on children's rights

The text outlines the political and strategic background pertinent to the mapping review, highlighting major projects and initiatives at the European level aimed at tackling safeguarding issues within sports. It underscores recent European initiatives dedicated to addressing these concerns.

The document proceeds to summarize the key subjects explored through ten case studies conducted by the European Commission's Directorate-General for Education and Culture, Youth and Sport, under the EU Erasmus+ Programme.

1. Time Out Against Bullying (Belgium): focuses on implementing measures to safeguard young athletes from bullying in sports environments.

2. Sport and Dialogue Against Violence and Discrimination (Bulgaria): aims to combat bullying by promoting safeguarding practices.

3. Prevention of Violence in Sport in Schools (Croatia): addresses peer-to-peer violence and emphasizes the importance of fair play within sports activities.

4. You Are Not Alone (Finland): Tackles violence, sexual harassment, abuse, and bullying, ensuring athletes feel supported and safe.

5. Sport Ireland ' s Initiatives to Safeguard Children in Sport (Ireland): implement comprehensive safeguarding measures to protect against all forms of violence.

6. Off-side - Sport Against Violence (Italy): concentrates on protecting individuals from sexual violence and abuse, bullying, and homophobia within sports settings.

7. Sportlycée (Luxembourg): promotes physical and emotional safeguarding, including measures to prevent overtraining.

8. Alvik Basketball Association (Sweden): develops a preventive framework to combat sexual harassment and abuse, raising awareness of the nuances between acceptable and unacceptable behaviors.

9. Toolkit for International Federations and National Olympic Committees (International Olympic Committee): provides general safeguarding measures applicable across all forms of violence within sports organizations.

10. Sport Booth (International Olympic Committee): offers resources on safe sport practices, focusing on harassment, abuse prevention, and education.

GUIDELINES FOR THE PREPARATION OF ORGANISATIONAL MODELS

These guidelines, formulated by the Federazione Italiana Rugby (FIR, Italian Rugby Federation), are promulgated for the express purpose of guiding the development of organizational and control models pertinent to sports activities, alongside codes of conduct. These provisions are dedicated to safeguarding minors and precluding harassment, gender-based violence, and any manifestations of discrimination:

1. Scope of application: this article delineates the ambit within which these guidelines are to be applied, ensuring a comprehensive and uniform adherence.
2. Offences of abuse, violence, and discrimination: this clause categorically proscribes behaviors antithetical to the ethos of inclusivity and safety, reaffirming the commitment to a respectful and equitable sporting environment.
3. Adoption of organizational and control models: this provision mandates the establishment of structured frameworks to facilitate the effective operationalization of these guidelines.
4. Minimum content of organizational and control models: this specifies the foundational elements that must be incorporated within the organizational models to align with the stipulated standards.

5. Risk prevention and management: this focuses on the identification, assessment, and mitigation of potential risks, ensuring proactive measures are in place.

6. Combating harmful conduct and management of reports: this articulates the procedures for addressing allegations of misconduct and the systematic handling of such reports.

7. Reporting obligations and other measures: this outlines the imperative of reporting incidents in accordance with these guidelines and delineates the subsequent actions required.

8. Additional obligations: this enumerates any supplementary responsibilities not previously specified that are essential for adherence to these guidelines.

9. Adoption of codes of conduct: this mandates the formulation of codes of conduct that resonate with the principles and aims of these guidelines.

10. Minimum content of codes of conduct: this defines the essential components that must be encapsulated within the codes of conduct to ensure compliance.

REPORTING FLOWCHART

World Athletics develops standard flowcharts as a foundational tool to assist in the organization and management of athletics events and processes. These flowcharts provide a visual representation of the steps and decision points involved in various procedures, ranging from event planning and execution to athlete registration and qualification processes. However, it is crucial to recognize that these generic flowcharts are designed to serve as a starting point or a basic template. Given the diversity of athletics events, local regulations, and organizational structures worldwide, it is necessary for local athletics bodies, event organizers, and officials to carefully review and adapt these flowcharts. Modifications should take into account specific local procedures, regulations, and practices to ensure that the flowcharts accurately reflect the actual processes in place and are fully applicable to the local context. This customization process ensures that the guidelines provided by World Athletics are effectively implemented, promoting consistency, efficiency, and fairness in the organization and management of athletics globally, while also accommodating local variations and requirements.

FLOWCHART FOR REPORTING A CONCERN OF ABUSE AND HARASSMENT

This flowchart is generic - it should be read and produced for [Club] with local legislation and government guidance for child protection referrals
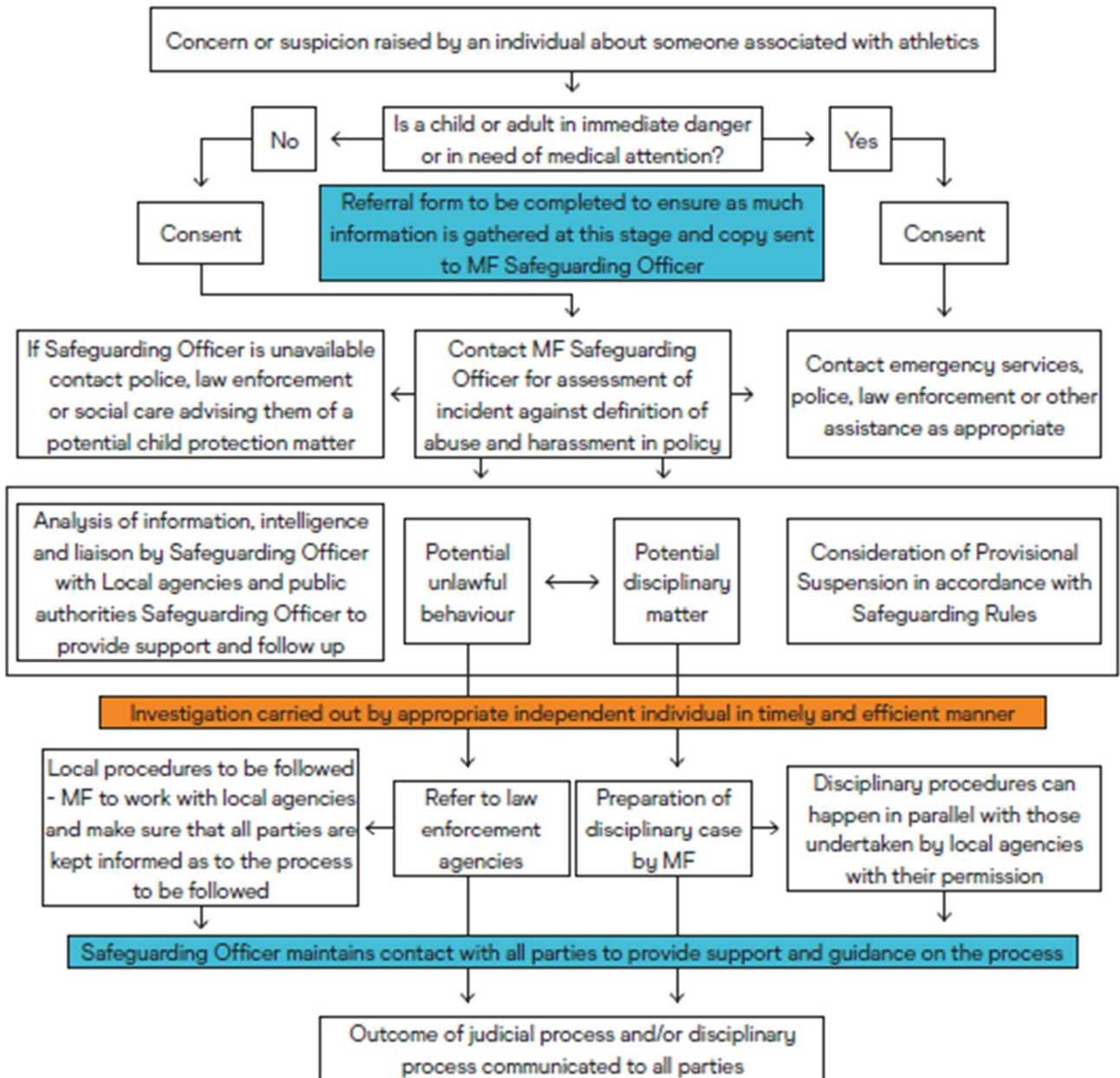
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Concern or suspicion raised by an individual about someone associated with athletics
                                    ↓
        No  ←  Is a child or adult in immediate danger  →  Yes
                  or in need of medical attention?

    Consent        Referral form to be completed to ensure as much        Consent
                   information is gathered at this stage and copy sent
                              to MF Safeguarding Officer

If Safeguarding Officer is unavailable     Contact MF Safeguarding     Contact emergency services,
contact police, law enforcement            Officer for assessment of   police, law enforcement or other
or social care advising them of a          incident against definition  assistance as appropriate
potential child protection matter          of abuse and harassment in policy

Analysis of information, intelligence      Potential        Potential       Consideration of Provisional
and liaison by Safeguarding Officer        unlawful    ↔    disciplinary    Suspension in accordance with
with Local agencies and public             behaviour        matter          Safeguarding Rules
authorities Safeguarding Officer to
provide support and follow up

Investigation carried out by appropriate independent individual in timely and efficient manner

Local procedures to be followed                                          Disciplinary procedures can
- MF to work with local agencies   Refer to law    Preparation of        happen in parallel with those
and make sure that all parties are enforcement     disciplinary case     undertaken by local agencies
kept informed as to the process    agencies        by MF                 with their permission
to be followed

Safeguarding Officer maintains contact with all parties to provide support and guidance on the process

                    Outcome of judicial process and/or disciplinary
                        process communicated to all parties
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Figure 2. Flowchart for reporting a concern of abuse and harassment

TOOLKIT

The analytical process applied to the subject of "toolkit" resulted in the identification of seven distinct categories, which can be referred to as child codes. These categories are outlined in the table provided below.

The table is structured into three main columns for clarity and ease of understanding. The first column lists the categories (child codes) that were identified during the coding process. This serves as a quick reference to the identified themes related to the toolkit topic.

In the second column, readers will find a brief description of each category. This includes insights into how the category was conceptualized and the source that contributed to its emergence. This section aims to provide background information on the development of each code, offering context and highlighting the diversity of sources that informed the coding process.

The third and final column presents a concise explanation of the content encapsulated within each category (code). This explanation aims to distill the essence of the information contained within the category, providing a clear and succinct summary of its significance and the key insights it offers regarding the toolkit topic.

This enhanced structure and detailed explanation are designed to facilitate a deeper understanding of the coding process and the resulting categories, offering valuable insights into the thematic exploration of the "toolkit" topic.

Codes name	Description	Source	Summary
Toolkit			
FIFA Toolkit	It is part of FIFA's overall commitment to safeguard children and will be supplemented with further guidance, templates, knowledge-sharing and training to support	FIFA. As the global governing body for football, FIFA is committed to supporting its members to implement best practice to keep children	Who is this toolkit for? To promote accountability and responsibility for keeping children safe from harm when involved in any football activity; To self-assess and inform the development of their safeguarding policies, plans and programmes, including for human resource and training needs; To assist coordinators

Codes name	Description	Source	Summary
	MAs, together with the confederations, in developing their own policies, procedures and good practices. FIFA considers this a living document that is to be updated every twenty-four months based on feedback and practical experience from our members.	safe and ensure involvement in football is fun for all. While FIFA does not control the day-to-day operations of our members, or their affiliated organisations and clubs who are independently organised, this toolkit sets minimum requirements for all members on child safeguarding.	and technical staff with risk assessments and the development of safeguarding plans and programmes; To support practitioners, such as coaches, trainers, medical personnel, staff and volunteers, who provide services, training and programmes to children to apply good practice for effective action.
International Olympic Committee Toolkit		European Commission - Directorate-General for Education and Culture Youth and Sport	The IOC toolkit provides general guidance targeting all IFs and NOCs in their pursuit to create and implemented policies and procedures to safeguard athletes from harassment and abuse in sport.
Monitoring and Evaluating Children's Participation		Save the Children	Charts to help you measure the scope of the policy in a programme.

Codes name	Description	Source	Summary
			WHEN DO CHILDREN BEGIN TO PARTICIPATE, AND AT WHAT LEVELS?
Principles and Supporting Frameworks.	Inter-agency Network for Education in Emergencies (INEE). Adapted from The Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action (2021).	The Inter-agency Network for Education in Emergencies (INEE) and The Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action (The Alliance)	The meaningful participation of children in decision-making processes that affect their lives is a right enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
The importance of participation in protection measures	Primary Prevention Framework for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action. Community Participation Coordination Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning (MEAL)	Keeping Children Safe	The meaningful participation of children in decision-making processes that affect their lives is a right enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Codes name	Description	Source	Summary
The Sport Protection Toolkit	Who is this toolkit for? How do I use this toolkit? Method of Scoring The Court The Game Plan. The approach adopted in this toolkit features evidence-based elements from three different sectors to create what we now refer to as 'Sport for Protection': • Child protection, which seeks to strengthen young people's protective environments and reduce their risk factors for abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence; Note: This toolkit is a work-in-progress. In the coming months, the toolkit will be piloted in different contexts and cultural settings. User feedback (e.g. experiences, recommendations	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), International Olympic Committee (IOC) and Terre des hommes organisation (Tdh). 2018.	Tool has 4 modules. Each module has a set of exercises.

Codes name	Description	Source	Summary
	, resources, training materials and local modifications) is highly encouraged via the e-version of this toolkit and accompanying on-line • Youth empowerment, which identifies and encourages the use of young people's assets and potential; • Sport for development and peace, which provides an efficient, flexible and cost-effective way of promoting peace and development across societies. The young people referred to in this toolkit, unless otherwise stated, are forcibly displaced adolescents and youth who are either: • Refugees (those displaced outside their countries of origin) or •		

Codes name	Description	Source	Summary
	Internally Displaced Persons (those displaced within their own countries).		
Tools for the definition and promotion of a protection system in sports organisations	The toolkit stems from the experience gained through the STePS project activities carried out by Save the Children together with trainers, educators and technicians of Sports and Amateur Associations (A.S.D.) affiliated with the Italian Sports Centre (CSI) and the Italian Union of Sport for All (UISP) on the issues of the protection and safeguarding of minors in sports (child safeguarding).	Save the Children	The toolkit presents theoretical insights and practical tools to start thinking about child safeguarding and how to take the first steps towards developing a safeguarding system, also independently.

Table 1. Toolkit Codebook

Methodology

This report has been meticulously crafted following a comprehensive qualitative content analysis conducted by the CRC Sport Consortium, as part of our dedicated project activities. The essence of our findings has been thoughtfully summarized and seamlessly integrated into the different sections of this document, highlighting that the scope of our analysis extends beyond the European landscape, encompassing a variety of global perspectives.

For the purpose of our analysis, we employed NVivo, an advanced qualitative data analysis software. NVivo has proved invaluable in our endeavor to organize, examine, and discern patterns within our extensive collection of good practices. The process began with the importation of materials, which comprised 31 documents generously shared by all project partners. Subsequently, each document was meticulously scrutinized for coding, during which we identified and classified key concepts. This rigorous coding exercise resulted in the identification of 11 principal concepts, or 'codes', along with their respective sub-categories, also known as 'child codes'. These have been elaborately described throughout the different sections of this document, providing readers with deep insights into our analytical process and findings.

To further enrich our report, we have included two Project Maps. These maps, generated using NVivo software, serve a pivotal role by visually representing the intricate web of relationships among the organizations and institutions responsible for creating and disseminating the analyzed documents. Additionally, they provide a clear depiction of the various categories and sub-categories that emerged from our analysis. These visual aids not only enhance the comprehensibility of our findings but also facilitate a deeper understanding of the complex interactions and dynamics at play within the realm of our research.

In essence, this report is a testament to the collaborative effort and analytical rigor that has gone into understanding the multifaceted nature of the documents we have studied. Through this document, we aim to provide stakeholders, practitioners, and policymakers with valuable insights that can inform future initiatives and contribute to the ongoing discourse in the field.

Figure 3. Project map obtained through the coding process representing the structure of the documents and the main codes (and child codes).

Figure 4. Project map obtained through the coding process representing the structure of the documents and the main codes.

An in-depth qualitative analysis was conducted using all documents shared by the project partners to analyse the Good practices so far implemented by sports organisations to counter, recognise and prevent the most different forms of child abuse, in order to build an updated tool to be shared with stakeholders through the CRC Sport project.

Table 2. List of the institutes and organisations that developed the documents examined

Organisations of the documents reviewed
Australian Sports Commission
Canadian Sports Governance Code
Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child
CSI
Erasmus+ Programme of the EU
European Commission - Directorate-General for Education and Culture Youth and Sport
Example of a safeguarding policy statement
FIFA
FIGC Federazione Italiana Giuoco Calcio
FIR Federazione Italiana Rugby
International Dance Organization (IDO)
International Safeguards for Children in Sport
Keeping Children Safe
NSPCC
OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE GRAND DUCHY OF LUXEMBOURG
Safe Place Safe Play
Save the Children
The Inter-agency Network for Education in Emergencies (INEE) and The Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action (The Alliance)
The International Cricket Council
UISP
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), International Olympic Committee (IOC) and Terre des hommes organisation (Tdh). 2018
World Athletics

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN IN SPORT

University of Cassino and Southern Lazio,
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