



SESSION 5

Safeguarding – What NFs Need to Know



Moderator



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Safeguarding – what National Federations need to know

What this session will cover:

- Context
- What is Safeguarding against Harassment and Abuse and why is it important?
- NF Safeguarding responsibilities
- Practical guidance on getting started
- Additional resources
- Q&A



Source: FEI website

Safeguarding – self care

- Safeguarding with discussions of abuse and harassment can be very personal to people.
- If you are affected by the points raised during this session, there are contact details for helplines at the end of these slides. And if you need to step out of the room for a moment please do.
- If you would like support or need to report a concern, please send an email to safeguarding@fei.org
- If you raise a question referring to a particular incident or situation, please avoid using the names of the persons/ federation/ club concerned.

Safeguarding – Context

- Sport and physical activity is a human right and can bring many benefits for those who participate as well as for wider society
- However, sport can also expose individuals to risks of violence and abuse; some risks are unique to sport and some individuals are particularly vulnerable
- Sport is a microcosm of society – whilst we cannot right the ills of society, we can take action to ensure participants in equestrian sport can thrive in a safe and supportive environment

Safeguarding - Context

Media reporting of abuse in sport

9 July 2020

The New York Times

South Korean Triathlete's Suicide Team's Culture of Abuse

After Choi Suk-hyeon's death, her family released secret recordings that depict the physical and psychological abuse she endured at the hands of her team's doctor and coach. The doctor appeared to suffer from mental health issues.

Australian gymnasts reveal horror stories of abuse

Walt Whitman High School teacher, community rowing coach charged with sexual abuse

SWIM  SWAM

FINA SUSPENDS OFFICIAL FOR ALLEGED SEXUAL ABUSE OF MINORS

Braden Keith | December 22nd, 2011

FINA Suspends Official for Alleged Sexual Abuse of Minors
FINA and LEN have announced they will investigate allegations that a coach, David A. Bomio, while coaching at a club, sexually abused several young athletes.

French figure skating coaches exposed after probe into sex abuse allegations



Former Mali basketball coach handed lifetime ban after abuse investigation

21 June 2023

Buenos Aires Times

SENATE REJECTS DNU • OMNIBUS BILL • INFLATION DATA

ARGENTINA | 08-03-2024 14

Four Vélez Sarsfield suspended from sports for sexual abuse allegations

Former Olympic show jumper Fellers faces four-year sentence after admitting sexually abusing a minor

By Mike Rowbottom

Thursday, 13 July 2023



Former Olympian and leading United States equestrian athlete Rich Fellers has pleaded guilty to sexually abusing a minor after being charged with grooming his teenage student into an illegal relationship. Fellers, 63, pleaded guilty to engaging in illicit sexual conduct with a minor and two counts of

Pa. education official banned from U.S. for 1981 sexual misconduct

by Justine McDaniel, Updated: October 10, 2019

Safeguarding – IOC Context

- IOC Consensus Statements: harassment and abuse (non-accidental violence) in sport
- Requirement that all sports organisations implement safeguarding policies (IOC's Basic Universal Principles of Good Governance 2022)
- IOC Safeguarding Toolkit
- IOC Safeguarding Training
- Extensive resources on IOC website – several languages

IOC SAFE SPORT INITIATIVES



SAFEGUARDING ATHLETES THROUGH EDUCATION



8 EDUCATIONAL TOOLS & COURSES FOR ATHLETES AND THEIR ENTOURAGE

5 SAFE SPORT ENTOURAGE FACT SHEETS

TOOLKIT FOR INTERNATIONAL FEDERATIONS & NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEES

[OLYMPICS.COM/IOC/SAFE-SPORT](https://olympics.com/ioc/safe-sport)

What is Safeguarding – Terminology

- **Safeguarding**
 - Taking proactive action to ensure all children and adults are safe from harm when involved in sport
 - Creating a safe, inclusive and welcoming environment for all participants in equestrian sport
- **Abuse** – acts of commission or omission which lead to a child or adult experiencing harm. Abuse is any form of physical, psychological or sexual mistreatment or lack of care that leads to injury or harm
- An individual may abuse or neglect a child or adult directly or indirectly where they fail to prevent another person harming that child or adult.

What is Safeguarding – Types of Abuse

- **Psychological abuse** – any unwelcome act including confinement, isolation, verbal assault, humiliation, intimidation, infantilisation, or any other treatment which may diminish the sense of identity, dignity, and self-worth.
- **Physical abuse** – any deliberate and unwelcome act – such as for example punching, beating, kicking, biting and burning – that causes physical trauma or injury. Such act can also consist of forced or inappropriate physical activity (e.g., age-, or physique inappropriate training loads; when injured or in pain), forced alcohol consumption, or forced doping practices.

IOC Consensus Statement 2016

What is Safeguarding – Types of Abuse

- **Sexual harassment** – any unwanted and unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature, whether verbal, non-verbal or physical. Sexual harassment can take the form of sexual abuse.
- **Sexual abuse** – any conduct of a sexual nature, whether non-contact, contact or penetrative, where consent is coerced/manipulated or is not or cannot be given.
- **Neglect** - the failure of a coach or another person with a duty of care towards the athlete to provide a minimum level of care to the athlete, which is causing harm, allowing harm to be caused, or creating an imminent danger of harm.

IOC Consensus Statement 2016

What is Safeguarding – Effects of Abuse



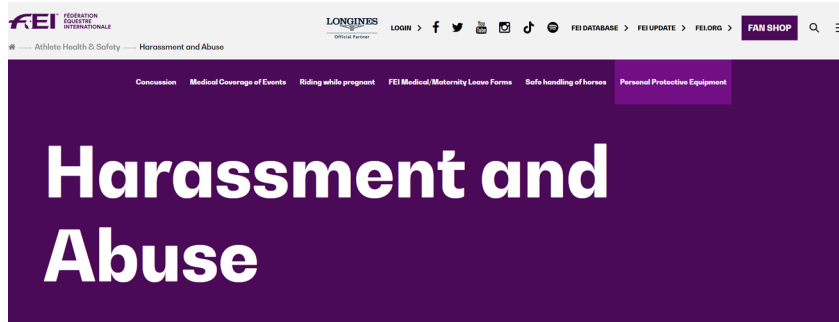
Why is Safeguarding Important?

- To ensure the wellbeing of the athletes and all participants - we each have a moral responsibility and duty to keep participants in sport safe
- To ensure participants have a positive experience in sport - so that they want to stay in the sport and that the popularity of the sport is sustained
- To mitigate reputational risk and the loss of sponsorship

Safeguarding – NF Responsibilities

- Leadership
- Prioritisation of resources, including a designated trained Safeguarding Lead
- Safeguarding policy and reporting procedures
- Managing reports and complaints promptly
- Codes of conduct
- Safe recruitment practices
- Communication, education and training
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Sharing of information where necessary and in compliance with legal requirements

FEI Safeguarding Policy against Harassment and Abuse



the welfare of the equestrian community, especially minors, is of paramount concern. When any member of equestrian community is subjected to or engages in abuse or misconduct, it undermines the mission of FEI and is inconsistent with the best interests of equestrian sport. All forms of harassment and abuse are prohibited and will not be tolerated by the FEI.



NF Safeguarding Policy – Development

- How to get started?
 - Network with other national sports organisations, child protection agencies...
 - Use templates
- Who should be involved?
 - Safeguarding Lead
 - Athlete representative
 - Legal advisor
- Adapt policy to context – sport, organisation structure, national legal framework
- Consult – policy and procedures should be developed in consultation with your equestrian communities
- Safeguarding approach should be trauma-informed and rights-based

Please note: NF Template Policy and Report Form will be available soon

NF Safeguarding Policy – Content

Policy should include:

- Introduction, Purpose, Policy Statement
- Definitions and prohibited conduct
- Scope of the policy
- Reporting procedure
- Confidentiality clause
- Provisional suspensions and judicial proceedings
- Mutual recognition of sanctions and duty to report
- Educational resources list

Please note: NF Template Policy and Report Form will be available soon

Safeguarding – Reporting Procedure

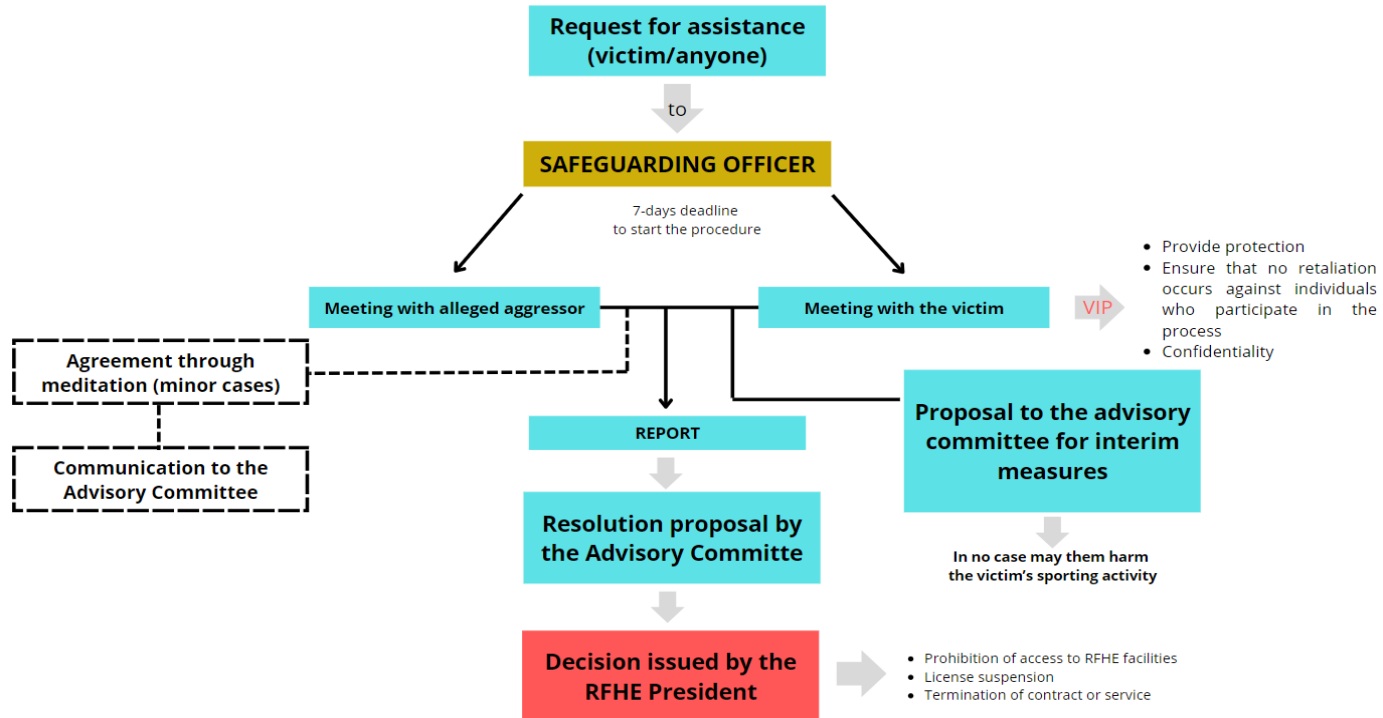
Procedure should include:

- How to report a safeguarding concern and to whom, for example:
 - Online report form
 - Dedicated email address
 - In person, to designated Safeguarding Lead
- How support and advice will be provided for those reporting a concern
- How the report will be managed and by whom
 - Assessment, investigation, judicial process
 - Safeguarding Lead, with for example a Safeguarding Case Management Advisory Group

Please note: NF Template Policy and Report Form will be available soon

Safeguarding – ESP NF

Safeguarding Procedure



Safeguarding – Other Guidance Documents

- Codes of conduct
 - Short list of expected behaviours
 - One for the entire organisation, or for each community
 - Simple language, easy to read, communicated across the organisation/community
 - Developed collectively
- Safe recruitment guidelines
 - Background checks, police checks
 - Sends strong message to those potential new recruits of your position with regards to safeguarding

Safeguarding – Education & Communication

- All communities – child athletes, para athletes, staff, board members, officials, coaches, grooms, support personnel, parents
- Communicate widely – especially the ‘how to report’ - use website, posters at clubs, other appropriate channels
 - Annual General Meeting – presentation; survey of members
 - Events - Event Safeguarding Officers, collaboration with Organising Committees
 - Online learning opportunities - coach education; officials’ education; webinars for participant communities
- Online learning tools - IOC website, Safe Sport International...

Safeguarding – Monitoring and Evaluation

- Monitor implementation of safeguarding initiatives across your communities and clubs
 - Feedback loop for continuous improvement – encourage feedback from your communities
 - Review annually and adapt the policy and procedures if necessary to ensure they are fit for purpose and up to date
- NF leadership is responsible for overseeing and supporting the Safeguarding Lead in this work.

Safeguarding – Resources for Policy Development

- FEI Safeguarding: <https://inside.fei.org/fei/your-role/medical-safety/harassment-abuse>
 - FEI Policy, Report Form and links to useful resources
 - *NF Template Policy and Report Form will be available soon*
- IOC Safe Sport: <https://olympics.com/ioc/safe-sport>
- Policy development and the International Safeguards for Children in Sport: <https://www.sportanddev.org/research-learning/guiding-toolkits/child-protection-and-safeguarding>

Safeguarding – Useful Resources

- IOC Safe Sport: <https://olympics.com/ioc/safe-sport>
- Safe Sport International:
<https://www.safesportinternational.com/>
- UN Convention on Rights of the Child:
<https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/convention-rights-child>
- International Helplines:
 - Child Helpline International
<https://childhelplineinternational.org/helplines/>
 - Pro Safesport Plus https://pjp-eu.coe.int/en/web/pss/home/-/asset_publisher/flylrsApJR5A/content/welcome-to-the-pro-safe-sport-website-?inherit

Safeguarding – Practical Guidance to get Started

1. Leadership buy in and support
2. Designated Safeguarding Lead
3. Talk about safeguarding – involve the athletes (child/youth/adult), parents, grooms, coaches
4. Build a safeguarding network – sharing of best practice, expertise and partnerships are critical
5. Safeguarding Policy – use templates
6. Robust reporting procedures
7. Codes of conduct
8. Practice safe recruitment
9. Education and awareness - use online resources, use existing resources
10. Ensure all involved and share responsibility in creating a safe sport culture

Safeguarding Against Harassment and Abuse in Sport



FEI Safeguarding Webinar
for NFs

23 May 2024

9h and 16h CEST
SAVE THE DATE!

Thank you