

What is Safe Sport?

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Safe sport

Safeguarding

Harassment and Abuse

Non-Accidental Violence

Child Protection

Gender-based violence

Safe from harassment and abuse in sport

Guarding athletes' rights



...everyone in sport, [has] the responsibility to foster a safe, respectful culture so that athletes can thrive without harassment, abuse or violence.

Harassment and abuse in sport occurs

- In every sport
- At all levels of participation: from grassroots to elite
- Worldwide
- By men and women
- By persons in position of power
- Between peers: boys and girls; men and women



Why?

- Hierarchical systems, autocratic authority, powerful coaches
- Frequency of isolation, travel, competition between peers
- Performance based reward system, zero-sum game
- Historically and culturally discriminative



The coach's role

- Professional conduct: scope of practice and professional development
- Relationship with athletes
- Relationship with consultants and professionals
- Relationship within the profession
- Confidentiality and communication





Dimensions of protection in sport

- Protecting the athlete from others
- Protecting the athlete from oneself
- Protecting oneself from the athlete or others
- Protecting one's profession

Celia Brackenridge

Ostrich or Eagle? Protection and professionalism
in sport science and coaching, 2010

Bystanders as enablers

“Passive attitudes/non-intervention, denial or silence by people in positions of power in sport creates the impression for victims that such behaviours are legally and socially acceptable”

Kirby SL 2000

Brackenridge. Routledge, 2001

Fasting 2007



What does a safe environment look like in gymnastics?



Safeguarding principles

- Welfare of the gymnast is paramount
- Acknowledge and recognise power imbalance
- Safeguarding is everyone's business
- You can't un-know what you know
- Recognise that the picture can look confusing
- Reduce the challenges by working together
- Culture eats strategy for breakfast!



“It is not a rocket science: treat people with the respect you would expect to be treated.”

