

Expert Group on Good Governance

Recommendations on the protection of young athletes and
safeguarding children's rights in sport.

July 2016

Extract of recommendations relating to sexual harassment and abuse
against children in sport.

Some preliminary remarks.

- Recommendations produced by an expert group of the Council of the EU.
- “Protection of minors”: Sub-topic of an XG dedicated to GG in sport organisations
- Majority of EU MS + Observers (sport movement, ..) + COM
- 27 recommendations (to national public authorities, sport org., COM)
- Legally non-binding document
- Main message: encourage the use of the experience from specialised institutions (e.g Safe Sport International) and existing international initiatives.

Recommendations to national public authorities

- 1. Encourage collaboration/effective partnership between sport organisations with those responsible for child protection.
- 2. Implement existing legislation and regulation (Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU) in the field of sport.
- 3. Support sport organisations: educational programmes, codes of conduct,...+ clear procedures for managing allegations and dealing post-judgment issues + link revenue grant aid with implementation of these measures.
- 7. Facilitate the exchange of criminal records checks information between MS including the mention of the nature of the crime for people working with minors (2 EU directive).

Recommendations to sport organisations/associations

- “As part of good governance principles, it is their responsibility to prevent or minimise the violence minors may be victim of (...).
- Due to the disparity of means between “big” organisations and grassroots sport clubs recommendations cannot be the same.
- To umbrella sport organisations ,larger federations and clubs.
- 1. Have a child protection policy.
- 2. Promote ethic guidelines, reporting mechanisms, hotline, clear procedures for managing allegations and post-judgment issues.
- 3. Special and regular training for people in contact with minors + 4. awareness campaign to entourage and 6. to minors.
- 8. Make a risk analysis for minors in their sporting environment + propose appropriate measures.

Recommendations to sport organisations/associations

- To grassroots sport clubs and associations:
- Child protection policy, partnership with parents, raise awareness and inform minors, guideline on how to deal with complaints or suspicions.

Recommendations to European Commission

- 1. Study on the possibility for sport organisations to ask the criminal records checks before hiring someone in contact with minors.
- 4. Mainstream the issue of sport when taking about minors (EU agenda for the rights of the child, COM XG on the rights of the child,...)

Follow-up

- Draft EU work plan on sport (2017-2020):
- A study on prevalence of child abuse in sport (1st half 2019) and a seminar (2nd half 2019).
- Thank you.....