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## Child Safeguarding in Sport

[www.coe.int/CSiS](http://www.coe.int/CSiS)

<b>Title of the practice</b>	<b>Safeguarding Officers Training</b>
<b>Country</b>	Belgium
<b>Organisation(s) responsible</b>	Centre for Ethics in Sport (ICES)
<b>Main topic addressed</b>	Educating and supporting safeguarding officers in sport organisations
<b>Type of resource/practice</b>	<b>Educational programmes and materials</b>
<b>Target group(s)</b>	Safeguarding officers in sport federations and sport clubs
<b>Timing</b>	2018 – ongoing
<b>Language</b>	Dutch
<b>Brief description of the practice</b>	Safeguarding Officer (SO) is the first point of contact within the sports federation for anyone who has a question, comment, complaint or other message relating to physical, psychological or sexual transgressive behaviour and integrity. The SO listens to the question or story and refers the issue when necessary or gives advice on the possible next steps without ascertaining the truth.
<b>Context and objectives</b>	Following the Safeguarding Officers Training, the SO is equipped for following tasks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Act as a contact point for integrity and communicates this to colleagues, athletes, members, clubs, sports coaches, etc.</li> <li>- Takes part in follow-up days to exchange experiences with other association SOs.</li> <li>- Support club SO and club management in incidents of transgressive behaviour.</li> <li>- Contact ICES in case of questions or incidents of cross-border behaviour.</li> <li>- Register incidents of cross-border behaviour using the Registration Document and the Report Document.</li> </ul>
<b>Steps/activities of the practice</b>	The Safeguarding Officer Training is a two-day programme. <p>Day 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information about well-being and transgressive behaviours in sports.</li> <li>• Theoretical background of the Flag system.</li> <li>• Practice moment.</li> <li>• The role and function of the safeguarding officer.</li> </ul> <p>Day 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protocol of action: what to do and how to act with complaints, presumptions or reports of transgressive behaviour.</li> <li>• Criminal law and disciplinary law.</li> <li>• Interview skills.</li> <li>• Practice moment.</li> </ul>

<b>Resources required</b>	A competent facilitator.
<b>Achievements and outcomes</b>	<p>Multiple Safeguarding Officers at federation level are put in place.</p> <p>In 2021, we trained eleven federation Safeguarding Officers and seven municipality Safeguarding Officers. In Belgium, we have over 70 Safeguarding Officers at federation level. Every recognised sports federation is required to have a SO and in Belgium there are seventy-three recognised sport federations. Multiple federations have more than one SO and some un-recognised sports federation have an SO, even if not required.</p>
<b>Challenges and limitations</b>	<p>The training is two days, and some individuals cannot make both days and have to wait until the next training is being run.</p> <p>The Centre of Ethics in sports is the only place where the training can be undertaken. The Centre of Ethics is situated in Gent and some people cannot make the trip.</p>
<b>Follow-up ideas and future plans</b>	<p>We are already implementing intervention days with the federation SOs as well as annual update sessions. At these sessions, the SO receives lectures on new research insights and learns new psycho-social methods.</p> <p>The SO from ICES is available for a second opinion, to ask questions or raise concerns they may have.</p>
<b>Further information</b>	<p><a href="http://www.ethischsporten.be">www.ethischsporten.be</a> and <a href="http://www.grenswijs.be">www.grenswijs.be</a></p> <p>Overview of ICES workshops: <a href="http://www.ethischsporten.be/aanbod/bijscholingen">http://www.ethischsporten.be/aanbod/bijscholingen</a></p>