

Funded  
by the European Union  
and the Council of Europe



COUNCIL OF EUROPE



Implemented  
by the Council of Europe

## Child Safeguarding in Sport

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

Title of the practice	<b>Guide for the detection of child sexual abuse in sports for professionals (Campaign “Child Sexual Abuse Stays Offside” for the prevention and detection of child sexual abuse in sports)</b>
Country	Spain
Organisation(s) responsible	Official organisation: <b>Spanish High Council for Sports</b> (Consejo Superior de Deportes) Supporting organisations: <b>Fundación Deporte Joven and UNICEF Spain</b> Authors: F. Javier Romeo-Biedma and Pepa Horno Goicoechea ( <b>Espirales Consultoría de Infancia</b> )
Main topic addressed	Prevention and detection of child sexual abuse in sports through activities with children and adolescents - A Detection Guide and Quality Standards
Type of resource/practice	<b>Educational programmes and materials</b>
Target group(s)	Coaches. Sport leaders. Child Safeguarding Officers.
Timing	Published in 2018, still in use by several public and private sports organisations
Language	English and Spanish
Brief description of the practice	<i>The Guide for the detection of child sexual abuse in sports for professionals</i> offers keys to identify several indicators of child sexual abuse that can be observed in sport and action guidelines in the event of sexual abuse. <i>The Guide</i> also provides a conceptualisation of child sexual abuse and its basic types. It also debunks some myths about child sexual abuse in sport.
Context and objectives	<p>The Spanish High Council for Sports (Consejo Superior de Deportes), the highest national authority for sports in Spain, started recruiting experts for this campaign in 2017 alongside other actions for the protection of children and adolescents in sport. With the support of the Fundación Deporte Joven, a foundation for the promotion of sports among children and youth and UNICEF Spain this campaign was developed by Espirales Consultoría de Infancia, an international child protection consultancy firm based in Spain.</p> <p>The complete set of the materials for the campaign “Child Sexual Abuse Stays Offside” for the prevention and detection of child sexual abuse in sports provides a big picture of diverse aspects that need to be tackled in trainings, matches, competitions and sports environments in to reduce child sexual abuse, detect it quickly when it happens and react appropriately.</p> <p>The main objective of <i>The Guide for the detection of child sexual abuse in sport for professionals</i> is to help identify indicators of child sexual abuse that can be observed in sport and to refer cases to the authorities. It can be (and has been) used to train professionals, as well as to sensitise managers and public actors.</p>

<p><b>Steps/activities of the practice</b></p>	<p><i>The Guide for the detection of child sexual abuse in sports for professionals</i> can be read as a standalone publication or used for training activities with professionals, preferably together with the rest of materials of the campaign “Child Sexual Abuse Stays Offside” for the prevention and detection of child sexual abuse in sports.</p> <p>The contents include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Why a guide for the detection of child sexual abuse in sports?</li> <li>• What is child sexual abuse? It includes a conceptualisation of child sexual abuse based in concepts and terms from the World Health Organisation and Lanzarote Convention. Basic types of child sexual abuse are also explained.</li> <li>• Some myths about child sexual abuse that hinder the detection of cases when they occur are contrasted with facts to debunk them.</li> <li>• Indicators to detect child sexual abuse in sport range from physical and psychosomatic to emotional, behavioural, cognitive, sexual and social.</li> <li>• Some difficulties to be considered are the circumstances that surround sport and entail certain specific challenges for the prevention and detection of child sexual abuse.</li> <li>• Action guidelines in the event of sexual abuse include appropriate and inappropriate responses.</li> </ul> <p><i>The Guide</i> has been (and is still being) used, together with the rest of materials to provide sessions for professionals from short introductions to in-depth training, in public and private organisations.</p>
<p><b>Resources required</b></p>	<p><i>The Guide</i> together with the rest of materials, was elaborated by F. Javier Romeo-Biedma and Pepa Horno Goicoechea, consultants from Espirales Consultoría de Infancia.</p> <p>The campaign “Child Sexual Abuse Stays Offside”, aimed at the prevention and detection of sexual abuse of children and adolescents in sport has been promoted and financed by the Consejo Superior de Deportes (Spanish High Council for Sport), together with the Fundación Deporte Joven, a Spanish Foundation that helps improve the lives of children and youth through sport and the collaboration of UNICEF Spain.</p> <p>The technical revision of the products of the campaign was courtesy of experts in the Council of Europe and the non-profit organisation “<i>Oro, Plata y Bronce</i>” [Gold, Silver and Bronze]. In addition, this campaign is supported by the “Start to Talk” initiative of the Council of Europe.</p>
<p><b>Achievements and outcomes</b></p>	<p>The main products of the campaign including <i>The Guide</i> are available to download.</p> <p><i>The Guide</i>, together with the rest of materials have been used in training activities since 2018 by the Spanish High Council for Sport, UNICEF Spain, Andalusian Institute for Sport and sport organisations.</p> <p>The existence of these materials has prompted sport organisations to implement child protection strategies including developing their own materials (some inspired by this campaign, others with different sources) to revising their child protection policies and tools.</p>
<p><b>Challenges and limitations</b></p>	<p>As these materials are a campaign, they have not received any formal follow up or evaluation process to assess the specific impacts. However, sports organisations in Spain and in other countries are implementing changes and publishing documents that might have been prompted by these materials, directly or indirectly.</p>

<b>Follow-up ideas and future plans</b>	New legislation in Spain for the Protection of Children and Adolescents against Violence (2021) requires the appointment of “Delegados y Delegadas de Protección” (Child Protection Officers) in sport facilities and organisations. These materials can be (and are being) used for training professionals in those positions.
<b>Further information</b>	<i>Official website</i> <a href="https://www.csd.gob.es/es/el-abuso-sexual-infantil-queda-fuera-de-juego">https://www.csd.gob.es/es/el-abuso-sexual-infantil-queda-fuera-de-juego</a> <i>Authors' webpage with the materials in English (permanent):</i> <a href="https://www.espiralesci.es/materials-for-the-campaign-child-sexual-abuse-stays-offside-prevention-and-detection-of-child-sexual-abuse-in-sports/">https://www.espiralesci.es/materials-for-the-campaign-child-sexual-abuse-stays-offside-prevention-and-detection-of-child-sexual-abuse-in-sports/</a> <i>Authors' webpage with the materials in Spanish (permanent):</i> <a href="https://www.espiralesci.es/materiales-de-la-campana-el-abuso-sexual-infantil-queda-fuera-de-juego/">https://www.espiralesci.es/materiales-de-la-campana-el-abuso-sexual-infantil-queda-fuera-de-juego/</a>