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Child Safeguarding in Sport

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Title of the practice	Two training modules on Sexual Abuse in Sport from the training catalogue of Clube Top programme
Country	Portugal
Organisation(s) responsible	IPDJ - Portuguese Institute of Sport and Youth in cooperation with Benfica Foundation
Main topic addressed	Safeguarding children and young people (raise awareness on sexual abuse)
Type of resource/practice	Educational programmes and materials
Target group(s)	Sport organisations, especially grassroots sport clubs, their sport leaders and staff, coaches and athletes
Timing	2019-ongoing
Language	Portuguese
Brief description of the practice	<p>Two training modules on sexual abuse of children and young people in sport were developed:</p> <p><u>Module 1</u> The objective is increasing knowledge about the dynamics associated with the sexual abuse of children and young people in sport.</p> <p><u>Module 2</u> Focus on prevention of sexual abuse in sport, with the goal of developing strategies for the primary prevention of sexual abuse in the sport context. The objective is to provide training for people with management and/or administrative responsibility in sport clubs on prevention and response to child sexual abuse.</p> <p>In the production of this training resource, we involved a training provider highly specialised on child sexual abuse – ISCTE (University Institute of Lisbon) and the Portuguese Order of Psychologists for the training of trainers. Through a pilot implementation phase within Benfica's internal structure the training modules and events will be assessed.</p> <p>Both training modules on sexual abuse of children and young people in sport will be available from the catalogue of Club Top Training programmes. The training is also available for Benfica Foundation and Benfica internal training structure including their network of Benfica Football Schools.</p>
Context and objectives	<p>Through a partnership between Benfica Foundation and IPDJ - Portuguese Institute of Sport and Youth, synergies were created for this project.</p> <p>Benfica is major club with an important Human Resources internal structure (1300 active assets employed + volunteers) and a wide implantation in the territory through the Benfica Football Schools.</p>

	<p>Club Top Training programme is a capacity building program (from IPDJ) for sport organisations, especially grassroots sport clubs, their sport leaders and staff, coaches and athletes.</p> <p>The objective was to develop the training resources on Sexual Abuse in Sport for the training catalogue of Clube Top programme and implement a pilot within Benfica to test the resources.</p> <p>The aim is to make available a training resource to empower and support those in positions of influence in youth sport (sport organisation managers and staff, coaches and technical teams, parents, family members and older athletes) for the prevention and response to situations of sexual abuse against children and young people. The training aims to help them activate five key competences:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Understand what sexual abuse in sport is and the myths associated with it. 2. Understand the vulnerabilities of the sport context. 3. Identify indicators and warning signs and the strategies of aggressors. 4. Know the main legal obligations of sport organisations. 5. Respond appropriately in cases of concerns and complaints. <p>The final resources will be available in Club Top Training programmes so training providers can offer these modules to their target audiences. The resources are also available for Benfica Foundation and Benfica internal training structure, especially their network of Benfica Football Schools.</p>
<p>Steps/activities of the practice</p>	<p>2019 - Establishment of the partnership and signature of a protocol. 2020 - Production of the two training modules. 2020/22 - Pilot phase implementation within Benfica (180 Trainees including coaches, managers, and other club collaborators). 2022 - Pilot Assessment. 2022 - Training of trainers. 2022 ongoing - Implementation and dissemination of training events at local level based on partnerships and the participation of at least two different organisations, namely local associations and clubs, local authorities, educational institutions, or other relevant organisations (ex: local child safeguarding commissions).</p>
<p>Resources required</p>	<p>Involvement of relevant stakeholders.</p> <p>Highly specialised training provider on child sexual abuse.</p>
<p>Achievements and outcomes</p>	<p>Two training modules on sexual abuse of children and young people in sport.</p> <p>Pilot within Benfica.</p> <p>Pool of trained trainers on child sexual abuse in sport.</p>
<p>Challenges and limitations</p>	<p>COVID pandemic has presented challenges and limitation to this project. When pilot phase was just about to start lockdown began, and clubs were closed.</p> <p>In September 2021 we got project re-started but many clubs are now trying to get back to normality.</p>
<p>Follow-up ideas and future plans</p>	<p>The training of every coach, manager, and staff member on sexual abuse of children and young people in sport is compulsory in Benfica Football Schools (52 at national level). Below is the project logo</p> 
<p>Further information</p>	<p>https://clubetop.ipdj.gov.pt/</p> <p>https://www.slbenfica.pt/slb/fundacao/irs</p>