



**CYPRUS SPORT
ORGANISATION**
The Highest Sport Authority in Cyprus



start to talk

Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport
epas
Accord partiel élargi sur le sport



Strasbourg, 13 September 2024

EPAS(2024)46rev

“START TO TALK” PROJECT

TRAINING COURSE: SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN IN SPORT IN CYPRUS

CONCEPT NOTE AND PROGRAMME

16 and 17 September 2024 (one-day training course)

From 9.00 am to 3.00pm

VENUE:

Cyprus Sports Organisation (CSO), Makarios Avenue, Egkomi 2400, Nicosia

Working languages:

Greek and English with simultaneous interpretation provided.

Background

All athletes should benefit from Safe Sport, meaning all children and adults involved in sport activities can train and compete in healthy and supportive environments. Safe Sport refers to an athletic environment that is respectful, equitable and free from all forms of non-accidental violence towards athletes¹.

Safeguarding children in sport is defined as the actions we take to ensure ALL children are safe from harm². It implies that the authorities responsible for sport, sport organisations and other relevant stakeholders ensure sport activity is a safe, positive and enjoyable experience for all children who are protected from harassment and abuse when participating in indoor and outdoor activities, in all capacities and at all levels.

Public authorities and sport organisations are increasingly taking meaningful action to create safer and healthier environments for children and young athletes. This included the establishment of Child Safeguarding Officer (CSO) roles in public and private sport organisational structures. CSOs are key stakeholders in the development and implementation of effective child protection policies and their responsibilities may include, addressing concerns in sport settings, communicating cases and disseminating safeguarding protocols.

This training course ‘Safeguarding Children in Sport in Cyprus’ has been developed within the [“Start to Talk”](#) project to upskill the technical knowledge and competences required from CSOs, sport organisations’ staff members in contact with children, and other relevant stakeholders. The course offers participants an approach to trauma-informed practice, allowing them to better understand the pervasive nature of trauma (that has occurred in, through and around sport) and promote environments of healing and recovery rather than sport practices that may inadvertently re-traumatise.

The “Start to Talk” project aims to protect children in sport by eliminating all forms of abuse and violence against them. The project provides technical support, resources and materials to support public authorities responsible for sport and sports organisations in their efforts to make sport safer. “Start to Talk” assists their stakeholders in developing and implementing child safeguarding policies, awareness raising campaigns and training for relevant stakeholders.

“Start to Talk” is run by the [Enlarged Partial Agreement of Sport](#) of the Council of Europe (EPAS).

Objectives

- Defining key safeguarding concepts and terminology, including different types of abuse and neglect within a sport environment.
- Understanding the key standards for safeguarding athletes and the necessary building blocks to prevent abuse.
- Describing the role and responsibilities of safeguarding officers in preventing and responding to incidents of violence in sports.
- Introducing trauma-informed care, recognising the impact of trauma and promoting environments of healing and recovery.

¹ Mountjoy, M. et al. (2016) International Olympic Committee consensus statement: harassment and abuse (non-accidental violence) in sport. *British Journal of Sports Medicine*. 50 (17), pp. 1019-1029.

² International Safeguarding Children in Sport Working Group (2016) International safeguards for children in sport. Retrieved from: <https://www.unicef.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/International-Safeguards-for-Children-in-Sport-version-to-view-online.pdf>

Participants

This training course is targeted at (Child) Safeguarding Officers working in the public and sport sector, sport organisations managers, and other relevant staff.

Organisers

This training course is co-organised by EPAS and the Cyprus Sport Organisation in the context of the Council of Europe's "Start to Talk" project.

Terms of participation

Participation in the training sessions is free of charge. Travel and accommodation costs are the responsibility of participants.

Contact

For further information, please contact the EPAS Secretariat on sport.epas@coe.int

Programme outline

Day	Time	Group 1 : Safeguarding in Sport
16/09	9.00 AM – 10.30 AM	Define key safeguarding concepts and terminology including different types of abuse and neglect within a sport environment and the impact of abuse on athletes.
	10.30 AM - 10.50 AM	Break
	10.50 AM – 12.20 PM	Understand the key standards for safeguarding athletes in sport and the building blocks which need to be put in place to prevent abuse including developing and implementing safeguarding policies, procedures and practices.
	12.20 PM – 1.00 PM	Lunch break
	1.00 PM – 3.00 PM	Describe the role and responsibilities of the safeguarding officer using a Trauma Informed Approach and introduce a cutting-edge approach of using tested metaphors that help explain the science of brain and child development and the impact of trauma in sport.

Day	Time	Group 2 : Safeguarding in Sport
17/09	9.00 AM – 10.30 AM	Define key safeguarding concepts and terminology including different types of abuse and neglect within a sport environment and the impact of abuse on athletes.
	10.30 AM - 10.50 AM	Break
	10.50 AM – 12.20 PM	Understand the key standards for safeguarding athletes in sport and the building blocks which need to be put in place to prevent abuse including developing and implementing safeguarding policies, procedures and practices.
	12.20 PM – 1.00 PM	Lunch break
	1.00 PM – 3.00 PM	Describe the role and responsibilities of the safeguarding officer using a Trauma Informed Approach and introduce a cutting-edge approach of using tested metaphors that help explain the science of brain and child development and the impact of trauma in sport.