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Child Safeguarding in Sport

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Title of the practice	Quality Standards to create safe and protective spaces for children and adolescents in sports (Campaign “Child Sexual Abuse Stays Offside” for the prevention and detection of child sexual abuse in sports)
Country	Spain
Organisation(s) responsible	Spanish High Council for Sports (Consejo Superior de Deportes) Supporting organisations: Fundación Deporte Joven and UNICEF Spain Authors: F. Javier Romeo-Biedma and Pepa Horno Goicoechea (Espirales Consultoría de Infancia).
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	Risk minimisation measures
Target group(s)	Coaches Sport leaders Child Safeguarding Officers Managers and directors of sport facilities
Timing	Published in 2018, still in use by several public and private sports organisations
Language	English and Spanish
Brief description of the practice	The <i>Quality Standards to create safe and protective spaces for children and adolescents in sports</i> describe the main elements to assess the safety of sports facilities and organisations physically, psychologically and emotionally with adults, children, adolescents and other actors. At each level, several indicators are detailed as well as keys to measure their implementation.
Context and objectives	<p>The Spanish High Council for Sports, 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 sports. With the support of the Fundación Deporte Joven, a foundation for the promotion of sport 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 sport provides a big picture of diverse aspects that need to be tackled in trainings, matches, competitions and sport environments to reduce child sexual abuse, detect it quickly when it happens and react appropriately.</p> <p>The main objective of the <i>Quality Standards to create safe and protective spaces for children and adolescents in sports</i> is to provide a step-by-step assessment of sport spaces to ensure children and adolescents are safe and protected in them. It can be (and has been) used to conduct assessment of sports facilities, as well as to train professionals and to sensitise managers and public actors.</p>

Steps/activities of the practice	<p>The <i>Quality Standards to create safe and protective spaces for children and adolescents in sport</i> are aimed to be used while visiting sports facilities and organisations. The <i>Quality Standards</i> can also be read individually and 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 sport.</p> <p><i>Quality Standards</i> to ensure safe and protective spaces in sports are a key element of protection to guarantee that children and adolescents, who are more vulnerable due to their age, spend time in safe spaces with people who protect them. This is achieved by securing the following levels which are described in detail each with several indicators to measure them:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A safe and protective physical environment. 2. A safe and protective psychological and emotional environment. 3. Aware adults (coaches, managers, other professionals in the world of sports, families). 4. Meaningful participation of all people involved, especially children and adolescents. <p>The <i>Quality Standards</i> have been (and are still being) used, together with the rest of materials, to implement assessment in sport facilities and organisations, as well as to provide sessions for professionals, from short introductions to in-depth training in public and private organisations.</p>
Resources required	<p>The <i>Quality Standards</i> together with the rest of materials, were 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” which is aimed at the prevention and detection of sexual abuse of children and adolescents in sport has been promoted and financed by the 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 the 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>
Achievements and outcomes	<p>The main products of the campaign were the materials including the <i>Quality Standards</i> which are available to download.</p> <p>The <i>Quality Standards</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>
Challenges and limitations	<p>As these materials are a campaign, they have not received any formal follow up or evaluation process to assess the specific impacts. However, sport organisations in Spain and other countries are implementing changes and publishing documents that may have been prompted by these materials, directly or indirectly.</p>
Follow-up ideas and future plans	<p>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 sports facilities and organisations, as well as implementing measures to ensure that sporting environments are safe for children and adolescents. These materials can be (and are being) used for training professionals in those levels.</p>
17. Further information	<p><i>Official website (some links are broken, the page changes sometimes its addresses):</i> https://www.csd.gob.es/es/el-abuso-sexual-infantil-queda-fuera-de-</p>

[juego](#)

Authors' webpage with the materials in English (permanent):
<https://www.espiralesci.es/materials-for-the-campaign-child-sexual-abuse-stays-offside-prevention-and-detection-of-child-sexual-abuse-in-sports/>

Authors' webpage with the materials in Spanish (permanent):

<https://www.espiralesci.es/materiales-de-la-campana-el-abuso-sexual-infantil-queda-fuera-de-juego/>