

# Glossary on Safe Sport



Pool of International Experts on Safe Sport, Council of Europe



Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport  
  
Accord partiel élargi sur le sport

COUNCIL OF EUROPE  
  
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

# Glossary on Safe Sport

*The opinions expressed in this work are the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official policy of the Council of Europe.*

All rights reserved. The reproduction of extracts (up to 500 words) is authorised, except for commercial purposes as long as the integrity of the text is preserved, the excerpt is not used out of context, does not provide incomplete information or does not otherwise mislead the reader as to the nature, scope or content of the text. The source text must always be acknowledged as follows “© Council of Europe, year of the publication”. All other requests concerning the reproduction/ translation of all or part of the document, should be addressed to the Directorate of Communications, Council of Europe (F-67075 Strasbourg Cedex or publishing@coe.int).

All other correspondence concerning this publication should be addressed to the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS) Council of Europe F-67075 Strasbourg Cedex France, Council of Europe

E-mail: [sport.epas@coe.int](mailto:sport.epas@coe.int)

Cover and layout: Documents and Publications Production Department (SPDP), Council of Europe

Cover Photos: Shutterstock

This publication has not been copy-edited by the SPDP Editorial Unit to correct typographical and grammatical errors.

© Council of Europe, December 2024

# Contents

---

<b>INTRODUCTORY NOTE</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>GLOSSARY</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>REFERENCES</b>	<b>15</b>

---



## Introductory note

---

This Glossary on Safe Sport was developed by the Council of Europe's Pool of International Experts on Safe Sport as an instrumental basis for the work on safeguarding of children in sport.

The objective of the Glossary is to provide a common language tool that, while embracing the diversity of contexts, facilitates collaborative work in policy-making, management of co-operation projects, capacity-building, research and other necessary activities in the field of child safeguarding in sport.

In developing the Glossary, the Pool was supported by Melanie Lang, Associate Professor in child protection in sport at Edge Hill University (United Kingdom) and a member of the Pool.

The [Pool of International Experts on Safe Sport](#) is the single entry point to a unique source of multi-disciplinary expertise covering all forms of violence and abuse against children in sport. It brings together policy-makers, researchers and academics, specialists supporting people with lived experience, child safeguarding officers, trainers/consultants and agents of change. It is a vehicle for peer-learning, capacity-building and fostering exchanges between all those who have a role to play in preventing and combating violence and abuse against children in sport.

The Secretariat support to the Pool is provided by the Council of Europe's Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS) within the ["Start to Talk"](#) project



# Glossary

Alternative definitions may exist in national legislation or as part of statutory guidance and such definitions may take precedence over the glossary of terms below, if or as required.

<b>Adult</b>	Any person
<b>Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)</b>	Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) refer to negative, stressful or traumatic experiences in childhood that can impact children and young people throughout their lives. Recognised ACEs include various forms of violence/abuse, neglect, household dysfunction, and exposure to harmful environments such as where domestic abuse, substance abuse, and/or parental mental illness occur (Felitti et al., 1998).
<b>Age of (Sexual) Consent</b>	"...the age below which, in accordance with national law, it is prohibited to engage in sexual activities with a child" (European Parliament and the Council of Europe, 2011).
<b>Bullying</b>	"...unwanted, aggressive behaviour among school-aged children that involves a real or perceived power imbalance. The behaviour is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated, over time. ... Bullying may include physical violence, sexual violence, threats, teasing, social exclusion, or other psychological violence" (Council of Europe, 2024a). It may occur online (i.e., cyber-bullying) and/or in person and may be verbal and/or non-verbal.
<b>Bystander</b>	Individuals who are not directly involved in the situation as a 'victim' or 'perpetrator' but, by their presence, have the ability to react to the situation positively or negatively before, during, or after the occurrence (Banyard, 2008).
<b>Case Management</b>	"...the process of assisting an individual child (and their family) through direct support and referral to other needed services, and the activities that case workers, social workers, or other staff [including sports staff] carry out in working with children and families in addressing their protection concerns" (Save the Children, 2011, p. 1).
<b>Child</b>	"Any person under the age of 18 years" (Council of Europe, 2007a, p. 14).
<b>Child Abuse</b>	"...child abuse consists of anything which individuals, organisations, or processes do or fail to do which directly or indirectly harms children or damages their prospects of safe and healthy development. Child abuse can be physical, sexual, and/or emotional in nature" (Council of Europe, 2019, p. 5).
<b>Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)</b>	"...the grooming and exploitation of children into criminal activity" (The Children's Society, 2021). It occurs when "another person or persons manipulate, deceive, coerce or control the person to undertake activity which constitutes a criminal offence where the person is under the age of 18" (The Children's Society, 2021). It may involve activities such as children being used to move drugs, money or other items relating to criminal activity (e.g. weapons) that results in personal gain for an individual, group, or organised criminal gang. "It involves an element of exchange and can still be exploitation even if the activity appears consensual. CCE involves force and/or enticement-based methods of compliance and is often accompanied by violence or threats of violence. It is typified by some form of power imbalance in favour of those perpetrating the exploitation" (Social Care Wales, 2021, p. 4).



<p><b>Child Emotional Abuse/Violence</b></p>	<p>“...persistent emotional maltreatment that impacts on a child’s emotional development. Emotionally abusive acts can include restriction of movement, degrading, humiliating, bullying (including cyber-bullying), threatening, scaring, discriminating, ridiculing, and other non-physical forms of hostile and rejecting treatment” (Council of Europe, 2019, p. 5). In sport contexts, it may include repeated shouting at athletes; subjecting a child to repeated criticism, sarcasm, name calling, or racism; ignoring or excluding a child; incidents such as coaches throwing objects in the presence of athletes and punching walls and/or breaking training equipment when frustrated with an athlete (Stirling &amp; Kerr, 2008). Other examples include pressuring a child to perform to unrealistically high expectations, excessive weighing of children, making a child feel like their value or worth is dependent on their sporting success, and/or exposing a child to upsetting events (like domestic abuse or drug taking (NSPCC Child Protection in Sport Unit, 2023). The term is often used interchangeably with ‘(child) psychological abuse/violence’, though there are differences. ‘Child emotional abuse’ is more commonly used in certain countries (i.e., the UK, Canada). See also ‘(Child) <b>Psychological Abuse/Violence</b>’.</p>
<p><b>Child Maltreatment</b></p>	<p>“... the abuse and neglect of children under 18 years of age. It includes all types of physical and/or emotional maltreatment, sexual abuse, neglect, negligence and commercial or other exploitation, which results in actual or potential harm to the child’s health, survival, development, or dignity in the context of a relationship of responsibility, trust, or power” (World Health Organisation, 2014, p. 70), It can occur in the home or other settings such as schools, children’s homes, and/or sport and leisure clubs (World Health Organisation, 2020).</p>
<p><b>(Child) Physical Abuse</b></p>	<p>“Physical abuse is characterised as actual or potential physical harm [of a child] perpetrated by another person, adult, or child. It can involve hitting, shaking, poisoning, drowning, and burning” (Council of Europe, 2019, p. 5). In sport, it may also be caused “when a child is given an inappropriate training programme or is forced to participate with an injury” (International Safeguarding Children in Sport Working Group, 2016, p. 15), or if a parent/carer makes up or causes the symptoms of illness in children, for example giving them medicine they do not need, making them unwell. This is known as fabricated or induced illness. In sport contexts, it may include forced or mandated inappropriate physical activity (i.e., age-inappropriate or physique-inappropriate training loads, training when injured or in pain) (Kerr, 2010; Lang 2010), forced alcohol consumption, or systematic doping practices. It may also occur “if the nature and intensity of training or competition exceeds the capacity of a child’s growing body, where coaches encourage the use of drugs or harmful substances or bodily practices to enhance performance or delay puberty, if children are made to perform a movement they do not have the skill to execute and this causes an injury, if athletes are required to participate when injured, if coaches punish children with excessive cardio exercises, if sanctions used involved inflicting pain” (NSPCC Child Protection in Sport Unit, 2023).</p>
<p><b>Child Protection</b></p>	<p>The prevention of and response to abuse, neglect, exploitation, and violence against children. Often used interchangeably with ‘Safeguarding’, though there are conceptual differences in some national contexts (i.e., the UK). See ‘<b>Safeguarding</b>’.</p>
<p><b>Children’s Rights</b></p>	<p>A sub-set of human rights that relate specifically to children. Often understood to refer to the rights enshrined within the United Nations <a href="#">Convention on the Rights of the Child</a> (United Nations General Assembly, 1989).</p>
<p><b>Child Sexual Abuse</b></p>	<p>“...the involvement of a child in sexual activity that he or she does not fully comprehend, is unable to give informed consent to, or for which the child is not developmentally prepared, or else that violates the laws or social taboos of society. Children can be sexually abused by both adults and other children who are - by virtue of their age or stage of development - in a position of responsibility, trust, or power over the victim” (World Health Organisation, 2006). Child sexual abuse includes “... engaging in sexual activities with a child who, according to the relevant provisions of national law, has not reached the legal age for sexual activities; ... engaging in sexual activities with a child where: – use is made of coercion, force or threats; or – abuse is made of a recognised position of trust, authority or influence over the child, including within the family; or – abuse is made of a particularly vulnerable situation of the child, notably because of a mental or physical disability or a situation of dependence” (Council of Europe, 2007a, p. 29). It may involve contact and/or non-contact activities and can happen online and/or in person. See also ‘<b>Child Sexual Exploitation</b>’, ‘<b>Contact Sexual Abuse/Violence</b>’, and ‘<b>Non-contact Sexual Abuse/Violence</b>’.</p>

<b>Child Sexual Exploitation</b>	“...behaviour constituting the criminal offences against children [or an individual child] consisting inter alia in their exploitation through prostitution, to produce and disseminate child sexual abuse material, and/or to groom or corrupt them for sexual purposes (Council of Europe, 2007a, pp. 7-9).” “Exploitation’ in this context is thus a key term, the meaning of which marks its difference from sexual violence and sexual abuse of children. The main distinction lies in the notion of exchange involved in exploitation, which is lacking from the concepts of abuse and/or violence” (ECPAT International, 2016, p. 24).
<b>Coach</b>	An instructor or trainer in a sport or physical activity setting.
<b>Coercive Control</b>	An act or pattern of acts of controlling, threatening, humiliating, and/or intimidating behaviours used to harm, punish, frighten, and/or coerce an individual in an intimate or family relationship. It may include economic, emotional, and/or psychological abuse, technology-facilitated abuse, and threats perpetrated with or without physical and sexual violence (Myhill, 2015). It may be perpetrated by a partner or ex-partner. In some countries (i.e., England and Wales), coercive control is conceptualised as a form of child maltreatment if a child witnesses it among parents/carers as well as if they experience it from a partner.
<b>Collective Violence</b>	“... the instrumental use of violence by people who identify themselves as members of a group – whether this group is transitory or has a more permanent identity – against another group or set of individuals in order to achieve political, economic, or social objectives (World Health Organisation, 2014, p. 82). It includes violence inflicted by larger groups such as nation states, militia groups, and terrorist organisations. An example of collective violence in a sports context is fan/spectator violence (Naylor, 2011).
<b>Contact Sexual Abuse/ Violence</b>	A mode of sexual abuse/violence that involves physical contact. “Contact abuse applies to behaviour involving sexual contact including of breasts and genitals, intercourse and oral or anal sex” (Council of Europe, 1993). See also ‘ <b>Child Sexual Abuse</b> ’ and ‘ <b>Non-contact Sexual Abuse/Violence</b> ’.
<b>Criminal Offence</b>	An action that is punishable under the law. Child abuse/ interpersonal violence may constitute a criminal offence within the jurisdiction committed. If abuse or neglect is motivated by someone’s personal characteristics or status (such as ‘race’, ethnicity, language, religion, nationality, national or ethnic origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation) this may constitute a hate crime.
<b>Cyber-bullying</b>	“...using electronic technologies in order to bully another person through the Internet. ... Examples of cyber-bullying include mean text messages or emails, rumours sent by email or posted on social networking sites, and embarrassing pictures, videos or websites” (Council of Europe, 2024a). See ‘ <b>Bullying</b> ’.
<b>Cyberviolence</b>	“...the use of computer systems to cause, facilitate, or threaten violence against individuals that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual, psychological, or economic harm or suffering and may include the exploitation of the individual’s circumstances, characteristics or vulnerabilities” (Council of Europe Cybercrime Convention Committee, 2018, p. 5).
<b>Dating Violence</b>	See ‘ <b>Intimate Partner Violence</b> ’.
<b>Discrimination</b>	“...unjustified, unequal treatment related to one or more prohibited grounds” (for example, ‘race’, colour, sex, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity). Discrimination has various forms: “Direct discrimination occurs when for a reason related to one or more prohibited grounds ... a person or group of persons is treated less favourably than another person or another group of persons is, has been, or would be treated in a comparable situation; or when, for a reason related to one or more prohibited grounds, a person or group of persons is subjected to a detriment. Indirect discrimination occurs when a provision, criterion or practice would put persons having a status or a characteristic associated with one or more prohibited grounds ... at a particular disadvantage compared with other persons, unless that provision, criterion or practice is objectively justified by a legitimate aim, and the means of achieving that aim are appropriate and necessary” (Council of Europe, 2018, p. 7).

<b>Domestic Abuse</b>	“Domestic abuse describes violence or abuse used by one person over another within intimate relationships or families. This includes all threatening, controlling, coercive, bullying, or violent behaviours. ... Children may experience domestic abuse directly themselves, or through being exposed to the domestic abuse of another person” (NSPCC Child Protection in Sport Unit, 2023). In some countries (i.e., England and Wales), being exposed to domestic abuse as a child is recognised as a form of child maltreatment. It is also sometimes referred to as ‘domestic violence’ though many advocates prefer the term ‘abuse’ in recognition that not all forms of domestic abuse involve violence (i.e., financial abuse).
<b>Exhibitionism</b>	“... the act of exposing in a public or semi-public context one’s intimate parts – for example, the breasts, genitals, or buttocks. The practice may arise from a desire or compulsion to expose themselves in such a manner to groups of friends or acquaintances, or to strangers for their amusement or sexual satisfaction, or to shock the bystander” (Baunach, 2010, p. 220).
<b>Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)</b>	FGM involves “excising, infibulating, or performing any other mutilation to the whole or any part of a woman’s labia majora, labia minora or clitoris” (Council of Europe, 2011, Article 38). FGM is a form of gender-based violence and a human/child rights violation.
<b>Financial Abuse</b>	The mistreatment of someone in terms of their money or assets (such as property). It may include theft, fraud, and/or mis-use of money (such as prize money in sport) (Ann Craft Trust, 2018). Financial abuse often occurs alongside other forms of violence/maltreatment. Also sometimes referred to as ‘economic abuse’. It may constitute a form of domestic abuse.
<b>Forced Physical Exertion</b>	“... when commonly used training methods of physical conditioning in sport are used as punishment, this may constitute a form of abuse, namely forced physical exertion. Or, when an athlete is forced to endure training methods of physical conditioning in excess, beyond reasonably foreseeable training benefits, and to a point in which the exercise has the potential to be harmful, forced physical exertion may be experienced” (Kerr, 2010, p. 46). It may include making an athlete run laps/do push-ups etc. because they arrived late for practice and/or as punishment for a disappointing performance, and/or making an athlete train to the point of vomiting. See also <b>‘Child Physical Abuse’</b> .
<b>Gender-based Violence</b>	“Violence directed against a person because of that person’s gender (including gender identity/expression) or violence that affects persons of a particular gender disproportionately” (European Commission, 2014, p. 47). It may include physical violence, verbal violence or hate speech, psychological violence, sexual violence, socio-economic violence, domestic violence/intimate partner violence, and/or harassment and sexual harassment (Council of Europe, 2023).
<b>Harassment</b>	“... where an unwanted conduct related to the sex of a person occurs with the purpose or effect of violating the dignity of a person, and of creating an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating, or offensive environment” (European Parliament and the Council of Europe, 2002). See also <b>‘Sexual Harassment’</b> .
<b>Hate Speech</b>	“...all types of expression that incite, promote, spread or justify violence, hatred or discrimination against a person or group of persons, or that denigrates them, by reason of their real or attributed personal characteristics or status such as ‘race’, colour, language, religion, nationality, national or ethnic origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity and sexual orientation” (Council of Europe, 2022a).
<b>Hazing</b>	“Any potentially humiliating, degrading, abusive, or dangerous activity expected of a junior-ranking athlete by a more senior team-mate, which does not contribute to either athlete’s positive development, but is required to be accepted as part of a team, regardless of the junior-ranking athlete’s willingness to participate. This includes, but is not limited to, any activity, no matter how traditional or seemingly benign, that sets apart or alienates any team-mate based on class, number of years on the team, or athletic ability” (Crow & Macintosh, 2009, p. 449). Also sometimes referred to as ‘initiation’, ‘beasting’, and/or ‘ragging’.

<b>Historic Abuse</b>	See ' <b>Non-recent Abuse</b> '.
<b>(Human) Trafficking</b>	Refers to “the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude, or the removal of organs” (Council of Europe, 2005, p. 3).
<b>Interpersonal Violence</b>	“The intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community, that either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, maldevelopment or deprivation” (Krug et al., 2002). Interpersonal violence can occur between family members, intimate partners, friends, acquaintances, and strangers, including sports teammates or coach-athlete. It includes child maltreatment, youth violence, and violence against women/ gender-based violence (for example, intimate partner violence, and sexual violence) (World Health Organisation, 2020). See also ' <b>Collective Violence</b> ', ' <b>Self-directed Violence</b> ', ' <b>Violence</b> '.
<b>Intersex Person(s)</b>	“...persons who are born with chromosomal, hormonal levels or genital characteristics which do not correspond to the given standard of 'male' or 'female' categories as for sexual or reproductive anatomy. ... Intersexuality may take different forms and cover a wide range of conditions” (Council of Europe, 2018, p. 8).
<b>Intimate Partner Violence</b>	“... behaviour by an intimate partner or ex-partner that causes physical, sexual, or psychological harm, including physical aggression, sexual coercion, psychological abuse, and controlling behaviours. It can occur among heterosexual or same-sex couples, and does not require sexual intimacy” (World Health Organisation, 2014, p. 74). Also sometimes referred to as 'domestic abuse'. See also ' <b>Domestic Abuse</b> '.
<b>LGBT Person(s)/ LGBTQI Person(s)</b>	“...used to describe those who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender. It does not suggest that there is a single LGBT 'identity'” (Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly, 2009). “Sometimes LGBT is extended to include intersex and queer persons (LGBTIQ)” (Council of Europe, 2018, p. 8).
<b>Non-contact Sexual Abuse/ Violence</b>	A form of sexual abuse/violence and/or exploitation where there is no direct physical contact between perpetrator(s) and 'victim', including verbal, visual, or online forms of sexual abuse/violence, “encounters with exhibitionists and engagement in sexual activity (exposure to pornographic videos, for example) where no physical contact occurs” (Council of Europe, 1993). See also ' <b>Child Sexual Abuse</b> ' and ' <b>Contact Sexual Abuse/Violence</b> '.
<b>Neglect</b>	“Neglect includes a failure to provide [a vulnerable athlete] with an adequate standard of nutrition, medical care, clothing, shelter, or supervision to the extent that the health or development of the [athlete] is significantly impaired or placed at serious risk. A [vulnerable adult athlete] is neglected if they are left uncared for over long periods of time or abandoned” (IOC Consensus Statement, forthcoming). Neglect takes at least four forms: physical, educational, emotional, and medical. “Physical neglect refers to not meeting a child’s basic needs (i.e., clothing, food, and shelter) or inappropriate supervision of a child that threatens their safety. Educational neglect occurs when a child is not afforded the recommended education. Emotional neglect refers to situations in which a child is not nurtured or stimulated and includes behaviours that ignore, humiliate, intimidate, or isolate. Medical neglect transpires when health care is not afforded to a child or if it is ignored. This extends to dental care. In sport, neglect could include exposing athletes to undue cold or heat without ensuring adequate clothing or hydration, encouraging athletes to play through injury, failing to adhere to sport safety rules or to provide appropriate equipment, removing a child from or limiting a child’s education in favour of training, and denying access to appropriate medical care for injuries” (Lang & Purdy, 2023, p. 198).

<b>Negligence</b>	"Acts of omission regarding athlete safety. For example, depriving an athlete of food/ or drink; insufficient rest and recovery; failure to provide a safe physical training environment; or developmental age-inappropriate or physique-inappropriate training methods" (Mountjoy et al., 2016, p. 1021).
<b>Non-accidental Harm/Violence</b>	"... any unwelcome sexual harassment and/or abuse, financial abuse, bullying, and emotional abuse, hazing, neglect, physical abuse and child exploitation" (International Paralympic Committee, 2016, Para 4.1).
<b>Non-recent Abuse</b>	"...neglect, physical, or sexual abuse of someone now 18 years or older, relating to an event when the victim was under 18 years old (NSPCC Child Protection in Sport Unit, 2023). Sometimes referred to as 'historic abuse', however, the term 'non-recent abuse' is preferred as those affected by abuse often report the consequences of the abuse may last many years after the abuse has ended and, therefore, it is not 'historic' to them.
<b>Online Violence</b>	Violence that takes place online "including grooming, sexual and peer violence and cybersexism, from exposure to pornographic and other harmful content, cyberbullying, online hate speech and interference with right to privacy and personal data protection" (Council of Europe, 2022b, p. 29). See also ' <b>Cyberviolence</b> '.
<b>Parent</b>	A person with parental authority or responsibility (e.g., mother, father (biological or not), or other legal guardian with parental authority (Council of Europe, 2006). The Latin term 'in loco parentis' (Latin meaning 'in the place of a parent') is often used to refer to the legal responsibility of a person or organisation to take on some of the functions and responsibilities of a child's parent (e.g., teacher, coach).
<b>Person(s) with Disabilities</b>	"Persons with disabilities include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual, or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others" (United Nations, 2006).
<b>Physical Abuse/ Violence</b>	"...an act attempting to cause, or resulting in, pain and/or physical injury". It "includes beating, burning, kicking, punching, biting, maiming or killing, or the use of objects or weapons" (Council of Europe, 2024b, pp. 23-24).
<b>Psychological Abuse/ Violence</b>	"A pattern of deliberate, prolonged, repeated non-contact behaviours within a power differentiated relationship. ... The behaviours that constitute psychological abuse target a person's inner life in all its profound scope" (Mountjoy et al., 2016, p. 1021). Often used interchangeably with 'emotional abuse/violence' though there are distinctions, namely that psychological abuse/violence encompasses behaviours that have an impact beyond the emotions (e.g.; on the psyche, on cognitive function, on memory etc.). See also ' <b>Emotional Abuse/Violence</b> '.
<b>Professional Abuse/ Violence</b>	Where a professional whose work, whether in a paid or voluntary capacity, brings them into contact with children and they then, being in a position of trust, abuse or neglect those in their care. In some countries, such as the UK, the age of sexual consent is increased for young people engaging in sexual relationships with a person in a position of trust (e.g., between coach and athlete).
<b>Queer Person(s)</b>	"...denotes persons who do not wish to be identified with reference to traditional notions of gender and sexual orientation and eschew heterosexual, heteronormative, and gender-binary categorisations" (Council of Europe, 2018, p. 8).
<b>Racism</b>	"... the belief that a ground such as race*, colour, language, religion, nationality, or national, or ethnic origin justifies contempt for a person or a group of persons, or the notion of superiority of a person or a group of persons" (European Commission against Racism and Intolerance, 2017, p. 5).  *"All human beings belong to the same species, so the ECRI rejects theories based on the existence of different "races" but uses this term here to ensure that those persons who are generally and erroneously perceived as belonging to 'another race' are not excluded."
<b>Safeguarding Children</b>	"...the actions we take to ensure ALL children are safe from harm" (International Safeguarding Children in Sport Working Group, 2016). Often used interchangeably with 'child protection', though there are conceptual differences in some national contexts (i.e., England and Wales). See also ' <b>Child Protection</b> '.

<b>Safe Sport</b>	"... an athletic environment that is respectful, equitable and free from all forms of non-accidental violence to athletes" (Mountjoy et al., 2016, p. 1019).
<b>Self-directed Violence</b>	"... violence a person inflicts upon himself or herself and categorised as suicidal behaviour or self-abuse" (World Health Organisation, 2014, p. 83).
<b>Self-harm</b>	"... an intentional act of self-poisoning or self-injury, irrespective of the motivation or apparent purpose of the act" (National Institute for Health and Care Excellence, 2020). It is an expression of emotional distress.
<b>(Sexual) Consent</b>	Voluntary agreement to engage in sexual activity. It must be freely given and informed. Children under the legal age of sexual consent cannot legally consent to sexual activity.
<b>Sexual Violence</b>	"Any sexual act, attempt to obtain a sexual act, unwanted sexual comments or advances, or acts to traffic, or otherwise directed against a person's sexuality using coercion, by any person regardless of their relationship to the victim, in any setting, including at home and at work. Three types of sexual violence are commonly distinguished: sexual violence involving intercourse (i.e., rape), contact sexual violence (for example, unwanted touching, but excluding intercourse), and non-contact sexual violence (for example, threatened sexual violence, exhibitionism, and verbal sexual harassment)" (World Health Organisation, 2014, p. 84). Those affected may be adult or child. The term can encompass (child) sexual exploitation and child sexual abuse.
<b>Sexual Exploitation</b>	"Actual or attempted abuse of a position of vulnerability, power, or trust, for sexual purposes, including, but not limited to, profiting monetarily, socially, or politically from the sexual exploitation of another" (World Health Organisation, no date). It may affect children or adults and may include trafficking and prostitution.
<b>Sexual Grooming</b>	"...refers to the preparation of a child for sexual abuse, motivated by the desire to use the child for sexual gratification. It may involve the befriending of a child, often through the adult pretending to be another young person, drawing the child into discussing intimate matters, and gradually exposing the child to sexually explicit materials in order to reduce resistance or inhibitions about sex" (Council of Europe, 2007b). It involves building trust and an emotional connection with a child/children and can be committed online and/or in person. It may occur partly or entirely online and there does not always have to be an intent to meet in person for it to occur. May also be referred to as 'Online Enticement'" (We Protect Global Alliance/UNICEF, 2022). The full term - 'sexual grooming' - should be used where context may be unclear to distinguish between other forms of grooming; children can also be groomed for radicalisation or criminal exploitation, for example.
<b>Sexual Harassment</b>	"...any form of unwanted verbal, non-verbal, or physical conduct of a sexual nature with the purpose or effect of violating the dignity of a person, in particular when creating an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating, or offensive environment" (European Parliament and the Council of Europe, 2011).
<b>Sexual Orientation</b>	"...refers to each person's capacity for profound emotional, affectional and sexual attraction to, and intimate and sexual relations with, individuals of a different gender or of the same gender or of more than one gender ... [it] covers heterosexuality, bisexuality and homosexuality" (Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly, 2009)
<b>Sledging</b>	"...the practice whereby players seek to gain an advantage by insulting or verbally intimidating"the opponent(s) (Joseph & Cramer, 2011, p. 237) and "a form of psychological warfare, where the aim is to break the concentration of an opposing player or, at the very least, instil enough doubt in his or her mind to create a mental distraction or a physiological change" (Martin, 2013). Also referred to as 'trash talk' or 'chirping' in some countries.
<b>Transgender Person</b>	"...includes those people who have a gender identity which is different from the gender assigned at birth and those people who wish to portray their gender identity in a different way to the gender assigned at birth; it includes those people who feel they have to, or prefer or choose to, whether by clothing, accessories, cosmetics or body modification, present themselves differently from the expectations of the gender role assigned to them at birth" (Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly, 2009). Sometimes the simplified term 'trans person(s)' is also used.

<b>Violence</b>	“...the intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community, that either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, maldevelopment or deprivation” (World Health Organisation, 2014, p. 2). It encompasses three main forms: 1) interpersonal violence, 2) self-directed violence, and 3) collective violence. See also ‘ <b>Collective Violence</b> ’, ‘ <b>Interpersonal Violence</b> ’ and ‘ <b>Self-directed Violence</b> ’.
<b>Violence Against Women/ Women and Girls</b>	“...any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual, or mental harm or suffering to women [and/or girls], including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether in public or in private life” (World Health Organisation, 2014, p. 84). See also ‘ <b>Gender-based Violence</b> ’.
<b>Voyeurism</b>	The practice of gaining sexual pleasure from watching others when they are naked or engaged in sexual activity.
<b>Young Person/ Youth</b>	Any person aged 15-24 (United Nations General Assembly, 2007). Young people aged under 18 are also defined as children.
<b>Youth Violence</b>	“Violence that occurs among individuals aged 10-29 years who are unrelated and who may or may not know each other. It generally takes place outside of the home, often in schools or in the community where children gather, and online. It includes a range of acts from bullying (including cyber-bullying), and physical fighting, to more severe sexual and physical assault, to homicide” (World Health Organisation, 2020, p. 11). Some acts of youth violence, such as assault, can lead to serious injury or death whereas others, such as bullying, slapping or hitting, may result more in emotional than physical harm (World Health Organisation, 2014).

# References

---

- Ann Craft Trust (2018) *Financial abuse*. Retrieved from: <https://www.anncrafttrust.org/what-is-financial-abuse/>
- Banyard, V. L. (2008) Measurement and correlates of prosocial bystander behaviour: The case of interpersonal violence. *Violence and Victims*. 23 (1), pp. 83-97.
- Baunach, D. M. (2010) *Sex and society* (1<sup>st</sup> ed.) New York: Marshall Cavendish.
- Council of Europe (1993) *Explanatory memorandum to recommendation No. R (93) 2 of the Committee of Ministers to member states: The medico-social aspects of child abuse*. Retrieved from: <https://rm.coe.int/09000016804db593>
- Council of Europe (2005) *Council of Europe Convention on action against trafficking in human beings*. Retrieved from: <https://rm.coe.int/168008371d>
- Council of Europe (2006) *Council of Europe recommendation rec (2006) 19 on policy to support positive parenting*. Retrieved from: <https://archive.crin.org/en/library/legal-database/council-europe-recommendation-rec200619-policy-support-positive-parenting.html>
- Council of Europe (2007a) *Council of Europe Convention on the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse ('Lanzarote Convention')*. Retrieved from: <https://rm.coe.int/1680084822>
- Council of Europe (2007b) *Explanatory report to the Council of Europe convention on the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse: Council of Europe Treaty Series - No. 201*. Retrieved from: <https://rm.coe.int/16800d3832>
- Council of Europe (2011) *Council of Europe convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence*. Retrieved from: <https://rm.coe.int/168008482e>
- Council of Europe (2018) *Safe at school: Education sector responses to violence based on sexual orientation, gender identity/expression or sex characteristics in Europe*. Retrieved from: <https://rm.coe.int/prems-125718-gbr-2575-safe-at-school-a4-web/16809024f5>
- Council of Europe (2019) *Child safeguarding policy Children's Rights Division*. Retrieved from: <https://rm.coe.int/2019-council-of-europe-child-safeguarding-policy/168098c6cf>
- Council of Europe (2022a) *Recommendation CM/Rec(2022)16 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on combating hate speech*. Retrieved from: [https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result\\_details.aspx?ObjectID=0900001680a67955#\\_ftn1](https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?ObjectID=0900001680a67955#_ftn1)
- Council of Europe (2022b) *Council of Europe strategy for the rights of the child (2022-2027)*. Retrieved from: <https://rm.coe.int/council-of-europe-strategy-for-the-rights-of-the-child-2022-2027-child/1680a5ef27>
- Council of Europe (2023) *Harassment and sexual harassment*. Retrieved from: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/gender-matters/harassment-and-sexual-harassment>
- Council of Europe (2024a) *Bullying*. Retrieved from: [https://www.coe.int/en/web/children/bullying#\[%2216948818%22:\[0\]\]](https://www.coe.int/en/web/children/bullying#[%2216948818%22:[0]])
- Council of Europe (2024b) *Chapter 1: Gender identity, gender-based violence and human rights*. Retrieved from: <https://rm.coe.int/chapter-1-gender-identity-gender-based-violence-and-human-rights-gende/16809e1595>
- Council of Europe Cybercrime Convention Committee (2018) *Mapping study on cyberviolence*. Retrieved from: <https://rm.coe.int/t-cy-2017-10-cbg-study-provisional/16808c4914>
- Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly (2009) *Discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity*. Retrieved from: [https://pace.coe.int/en/files/12351/html#\\_TOC\\_N05548080N055A3E14](https://pace.coe.int/en/files/12351/html#_TOC_N05548080N055A3E14)



European Commission (2014) *Gender equality in sport. Proposal for strategic actions 2014-2020*. Retrieved from: [http://ec.europa.eu/sport/events/2013/documents/20131203-gender/final-proposal-1802\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/sport/events/2013/documents/20131203-gender/final-proposal-1802_en.pdf)

European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) (2017) *ECRI general policy recommendation no. 7 on national legislation to combat racism and racial discrimination*. Retrieved from: <https://rm.coe.int/ecri-general-policy-recommendation-no-7-revised-on-national-legislatio/16808b5aae>

European Parliament and the Council of Europe (2002) *Directive 2002/73/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 September 2002 amending Council Directive 76/207/EEC on the implementation of the principle of equal treatment for men and women as regards access to employment, vocational training and promotion, and working conditions*. Retrieved from: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:32002L0073:EN:HTML>

European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011 (2011) *Directive 2011/93/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011 on combating the sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and child pornography*. Retrieved from: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32011L0093#:~:text=Directive%202011%2F93%2FEU%20of%20the%20European%20Parliament%20and%20of,child%20pornography%2C%20and%20replacing%20Council%20Framework%20Decision%202004%2F68%2FJHA>

Felitti, V. J., Anda, R. F., Nordenberg, D., Williamson, D. F., Spitz, A. M., Edwards, V., Koss, M. P. & Marks, J. P. (1998) Relationship of childhood abuse and household dysfunction to many of the leading causes of death in adults: The Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) study. *American Journal of Preventative Medicine*. 14 (4), pp. 245-258.

Glaser, D. (2002). Emotional abuse and neglect (psychological maltreatment): A conceptual framework. *Child Abuse and Neglect*. 26, pp. 697-714.

International Paralympic Committee (IPC) (2016) *Chapter 3.15 – IPC policy on non-accidental violence and abuse in sport*. Retrieved from: [https://www.paralympic.org/sites/default/files/document/170302083230136\\_Sec+ii+chapter+3\\_15\\_IPC+Policy+on+Non-Accidental+Violence+and+Abuse.pdf](https://www.paralympic.org/sites/default/files/document/170302083230136_Sec+ii+chapter+3_15_IPC+Policy+on+Non-Accidental+Violence+and+Abuse.pdf)

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>

IOC Consensus Statement (forthcoming): Retrieved from: [https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/pdf/SAMPLE+DRAFT\\_Definitions+of+Child+Abuse+and+Possible+indicators.doc/](https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/pdf/SAMPLE+DRAFT_Definitions+of+Child+Abuse+and+Possible+indicators.doc/)

Joseph, S. & Cramer, D. (2011) Sledging in cricket: Elite English batsmen's experiences of verbal gameship. *Journal of Clinical Sport Psychology*. 5 (3), pp. 237-251.

Kerr, G. (2010) Physical and emotional abuse of elite child athletes: The case of forced physical exertion. In: C. H. Brackenridge & D. Rhind (Eds.), *Elite child athlete welfare: International perspectives* (pp. 41-50). London: Brunel University Press. Retrieved from: [https://research.edgehill.ac.uk/ws/portalfiles/portal/20069510/BIRNAW\\_Elite\\_Child\\_Athlete\\_Welfare\\_eBook\\_2010.pdf](https://research.edgehill.ac.uk/ws/portalfiles/portal/20069510/BIRNAW_Elite_Child_Athlete_Welfare_eBook_2010.pdf)

Krug, E. G., Dahlberg, L. L., Mercy, J. A., Zwi, A. B. & Lozano, R. (2002) *World report on violence and health*. Geneva: World Health Organisation.

Lang, M. (2010) Intensive training in youth sport: A new abuse of power? In: **M. Lang and K. Vanhoutte**, eds., *Bullying and the abuse of power: From the playground to international relations* (pp. 57-64). Freeland: Inter-Disciplinary Press.

Lang, M. & Purdy, L. (2023) Child's play? Safeguarding and protecting children in sport. In: Toms, M. & Jeanes, R. (Eds.), *Routledge Handbook of Coaching Children* (pp. 195-203). London: Routledge.

Martin, L. (2013) Don't be so sensitive, sledging is part of the game. *The Conversation*. 5. Retrieved from: <https://theconversation.com/dont-be-so-sensitive-sledging-is-part-of-the-game-20929>

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.

Myhill, A. (2015) Measuring coercive control: What can we learn from national population surveys? *Violence Against Women*. 21 (3), pp. 355-375.

National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (2020) *Self-harm: What is it?* Retrieved from: <https://cks.nice.org.uk/topics/self-harm/background-information/definition/>

- NSPCC (no date) *What is emotional abuse?* Retrieved from: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/types-of-abuse/emotional-abuse/>
- NSPCC Child Protection in Sport Unit (2020) *Protecting children from grooming and sexual abuse*. Retrieved from: <https://thecpsu.org.uk/resource-library/best-practice/protecting-children-in-sport-from-grooming-and-sexual-abuse/#:~:text=The%20term%20%27grooming%27%20is%20commonly%20used%20to%20describe,also%20be%20groomed%20for%20radicalisation%20or%20criminal%20exploitation>
- NSPCC Child Protection in Sport Unit (2021) *Child abuse in a sports setting*. Available from: <https://thecpsu.org.uk/help-advice/introduction-to-safeguarding/child-abuse-in-a-sports-setting/>
- NSPCC Child Protection in Sport Unit (2023) *Child abuse in a sports setting*. Retrieved from: <https://thecpsu.org.uk/help-advice/introduction-to-safeguarding/child-abuse-in-a-sports-setting/>
- Save the Children (2011) *Case management practice within Save the Children child protection programmes*. London: Save the Children UK. Retrieved from: <https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/document/case-management-practice-within-save-children-child-protection-programmes/>
- Social Care Wales (2021) *All Wales practice guide: Wales safeguarding procedures*. Retrieved from: <https://safeguarding.wales/documents/66/safeguarding-children-from-child-criminal-exploitation.pdf>
- Stirling, A. & Kerr, G. (2008) Defining and categorising emotional abuse in sport. *European Journal of Sport Science*. 8 (4), pp. 173-181.
- Taylor, N. A. J. (2011) Football hooliganism as collective violence: Explaining variance in Britain through interpersonal boundaries, 1863-1989. *The International Journal of the History of Sport*. 28 (13), pp. 1750-1771.
- The Children's Society (2021) *Defining child criminal exploitation*. Retrieved from: <https://www.childrens-society.org.uk/information/professionals/resources/defining-child-criminal-exploitation>
- United Nations (2006) Convention on the rights of people with disabilities. Retrieved from: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/convention-rights-persons-disabilities>
- United Nations General Assembly (2007) 62/126: Policies and programmes involving youth: Promoting youth participation in social and economic development. Retrieved from: <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N07/471/33/PDF/N0747133.pdf?OpenElement>
- We Protect Global Alliance/UNICEF (2022) Framing the future: How the Model National Response framework is supporting national efforts to end child sexual exploitation and abuse online. Retrieved from: <https://www.unicef.org/media/121066/file/Framing%20the%20Future.pdf>
- World Health Organisation (no date) Sexual exploitation and abuse. Retrieved from: [https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/documents/ethics/sexual-exploitation-and-abuse-pamphlet-en.pdf?sfvrsn=409b4d89\\_2](https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/documents/ethics/sexual-exploitation-and-abuse-pamphlet-en.pdf?sfvrsn=409b4d89_2)
- World Health Organisation (2006) Preventing child maltreatment: A guide to taking action and generating evidence. Retrieved from: <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/preventing-child-maltreatment-a-guide-to-taking-action-and-generating-evidence>
- World Health Organisation (2014) *Global status report on violence prevention 2014*. Retrieved from: <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789241564793>

The Council of Europe's Pool of International Experts on Safe Sport is the single entry point to a unique source of multi-disciplinary expertise covering all forms of violence and abuse against children in sport. It brings together policy-makers, researchers and academics, specialists supporting people with lived experience, child safeguarding officers, trainers/consultants and agents of change. It is a vehicle for peer-learning, capacity-building and fostering exchanges between all those who have a role to play in preventing and combating violence and abuse against children in sport.

The Secretariat support to the Pool is provided by the Council of Europe's Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS) within the "Start to Talk" project.

"Start to Talk" provides support to national authorities responsible for sport and sports organisations for the implementation of child safeguarding in sport policies, the training of relevant stakeholders and the organisation of awareness-raising campaigns.



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

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

The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organisation. It comprises 46 member states, including all members of the European Union. All Council of Europe member states have signed up to the European Convention on Human Rights, a treaty designed to protect human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The European Court of Human Rights oversees the implementation of the Convention in the member states.

