

Strategy for Safeguarding Baseball / Softball Athletes

“

He punched me on the chin and I was bloody in my mouth. He lifted me up by my shirt collar. 90 percent of my teammates experienced physical abuse.... We were all kind of joking, 'You haven't been beaten yet, when is it your turn?'

– A former high school baseball player

”

What is Harassment and Abuse?

All athletes have a right to engage in 'safe sport,' defined as an athletic environment that is respectful, equitable and free from all forms of non-accidental violence to athletes.

IOC Consensus Statement: Harassment and Abuse in Sport (2016)

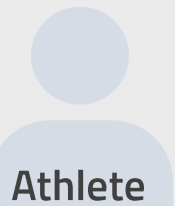
*Sex Gender Race Age Ethnicity
Sexual Orientation Indigeneity Faith
Socio-economic / Financial Status Disability
Athletic Ability Athletic Longevity*

*Physical
Psychological
Sexual
Neglect*

Eventual Impact

Physical / Social / Psychological Health Issues

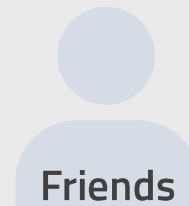
Low performance, doping, cheating, drop-out, eating disorder, anxiety, depression, self-harm, suicide etc.



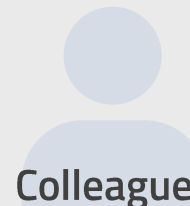
Athlete



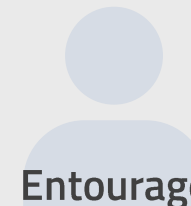
Family



Friends



Colleagues



Entourage

- Loss of talented athlete pools
- Termination of sponsorship contract
- Losing trust from loyal fans, families, athletes, and their entourage
- Reputational damage on organisation

ORGANISATION



Why important for WBSC?

Reputation

Enhancing WBSC brand image
Role model for other Int'l Federations

Additional points for next Governance Report
Compliance with IOC Safeguarding Guideline

Attraction / trust to athletes, parents, sponsors
and all our stakeholders

Administration

Administrative service to members
Same reputation benefits to members
Securing talent pool

Clear internal guidance for all
Consistent investigation procedure
Efficient coordination process

Current Situation

2016

IOC Consensus Statement:
Harassment and Abuse
in Sport

2018

WBSC By-Laws
Safeguarding from Harassment & Abuse

- Set-up of Safeguarding hotline for contact
- Implemented info in the presentation during the Pre-Tournament Meeting
- Start of appointment for Safeguarding Officer on-site during the tournament

2020

ASOIF 3rd Governance Report

- 3 out of 4 points on Safeguarding

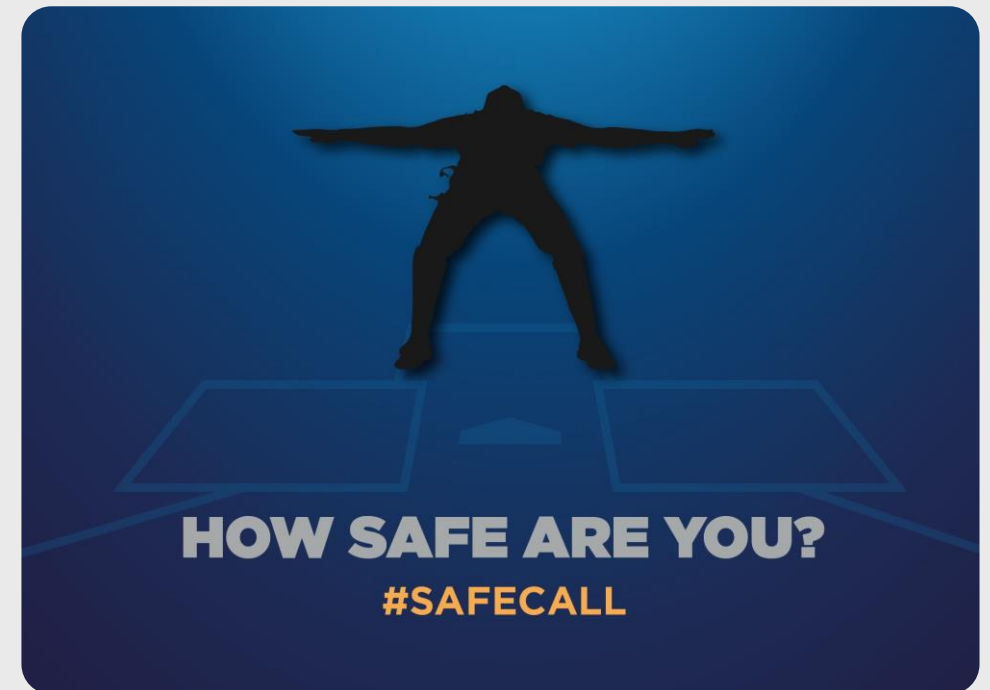
Current Situation

2021

WBSC Safeguarding Video
#SafeCall Campaign

- To be played on outfield screen during the entire tournament period

Three WBSC Representatives to take
IOC's Certification Course:
Safeguarding Officer in Sport



Next Step – Written Policy

To be approved by Athletes Commission

Update of Safeguarding By-Laws

- Inclusion of e-Sport
Safeguarding athletes from cyber-bullying, online-sexual grooming etc.
- Inclusion of Child Protection
- Constant updates based on feedbacks
More visual resources and multi-language translation in Japanese, Korean, Chinese, French and Arabic

New Safeguarding Handbook

- Production of Handbooks by different target
Young Athletes / Adult Athletes / Staff & Officials / Coaches & Managers / Families / Organisation
- Constant updates based on feedbacks
More visual resources and multi-language translation in Japanese, Korean, Chinese, French and Arabic

Next Step – Training / Campaign

To be approved by Athletes Commission

Safeguarding Training Course

- Webinar for Athletes
- Webinar for Staff
- WBSC Academy
Implementation on existing courses for Coaches / Technical Commissioners / Umpires / Scorers.

#Safecall Campaign

- Multi-Language Safeguarding Videos in Japanese, Korean, Chinese, French and Arabic
- On-site Campaign during Tournament
Souvenirs / Photo booth / Safeguarding Ambassador etc
- Additional Video Production

External Partnership

- Partnership with NGOs, IOC and other relevant organisations



Safeguarding is

“ *developed*

for a community

by that community

and implemented

through the community ”

Reference

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- Hockey Australia. [*Safe Hockey Community Guidelines*](#). [online]
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- Kavanagh, E., Litchfield, C. and Osborne, J. (2020). [*Virtual Technologies as Tools of Maltreatment: Safeguarding in Digital Spaces*](#). [PDF]
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