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

WBSC Athletes Commission
Eventual Impact

Physical / Social / Psychological Health Issues
Low performance, doping, cheating, drop-out, eating disorder, anxiety, depression, self-harm, suicide etc.

- Loss of talented athlete pools
- Termination of sponsorship contract
- Losing trust from loyal fans, families, athletes, and their entourage
- Reputational damage on 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 3\textsuperscript{rd} 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Safeguarding Training Course</th>
<th>#Safecall Campaign</th>
<th>External Partnership</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Webinar for Staff</td>
<td>- On-site Campaign during Tournament Souvenirs / Photo booth / Safeguarding Ambassador etc</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- WBSC Academy</td>
<td>- Additional Video Production</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implementation on existing courses for Coaches / Technical Commissioners / Umpires / Scorers.</td>
<td></td>
<td>- Partnership with NGOs, IOC and other relevant organisations</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Safeguarding is developed for a community by that community and implemented through the community
Reference

- Fasting, K., Brackenridge, C. and Sundgot-Borgen, J. (2004). *Prevalence of Sexual Harassment among Norwegian Female Elite Athletes in Relation to Sport Type* [PDF]
- Hockey Australia. *Safe Hockey Community Guidelines*. [online]