Managing Child Protection Cases in Sport: Addressing the Challenges
Nick Slinn and Sally Proudlove
Child Protection in Sport Unit

Mission:

To build the capacity of sport to safeguard children and young people in and through sport to enable sport to lead the way in keeping children safe from harm.
Role of CPSU

• Lead voice/champion/pioneer for safeguarding children in sport
• Enabler/facilitator/advisor to sports organisations
• Co-ordinator/influencer promoting messages and influencing policy
• Independent expert anticipating and interpreting national safeguarding developments
Where we started

1990s – first high profile cases in sport
Criminal convictions of Olympic and other elite sports coaches for sexual and physical abuse of athletes
Multiple victims
Intense media attention
Reputational damage to sports bodies and loss of sponsorship
Initial responses geared to dealing with rogue individuals, not systematic change
Case Management: The challenges

- Lack of expertise
- ‘It doesn’t happen in my sport’ attitude
- Resource implications
- Fear of getting it wrong
- Mutual lack of understanding between sports bodies and statutory agencies.
Expectations of Case Management systems

• Clear referral route
• Designated roles
• Training
• Advice/support
• Disciplinary processes
• Communication throughout organisation
• Links with statutory agencies
Safeguarding standards across the UK
Standards for Safeguarding and Protecting Children in Sport (England)

A safeguarding audit

Reflect statutory requirements

A practice baseline

Involved review, update and developments

Identified good practice and areas of need
• Designated persons support
• Advice and resources
• Peer support/learning sets
• Training
  - Time to Listen
  - Risk Assessment
• Research
• Learning from case experiences
Impact

• Increased awareness
• Increased numbers of cases
• Greater ownership
• Improved practice
• Moving towards consistency
• Children safer
Remaining challenges

• Expertise

• Resources

• Smaller Sports

• Consistency across sport
Responding to the challenges

• Training for case management group members
• National Panel
• Available Experts
• On-going research
• Standardised data collection tool
Safeguarding children in sport
UNICEF Innocenti Research:
Definitions
Findings and Recommendations
Findings

There is a lack of effectively functioning structures, policies and systems

There is an absence of empirical data on violence against children in sport

Good practice in sport for development initiatives reflects and embeds children’s right to play safely
International Standards for Safeguarding in Sport

Vision: That all children, around the world, of all castes, tribes, genders and abilities, have the opportunity to participate, enjoy and develop through safe, well delivered sport and physical activity.

play sport stay safe enjoy and achieve
The Working Group
The Draft Standards

1) Policy
2) Procedures, personnel and systems
3) Minimising risks to children
4) Guidelines on behaviour
5) Equity
6) Communication
7) Education and training
8) Engagement with advice and support
9) Working with partners
10) Involving children
11) Monitoring and evaluation
Progress to date

Working standards finalised
More than 20 organisations involved in action research
Plans to introduce the standards to Commonwealth Games Committees during their General Assembly
Work already underway to strengthen safeguarding in PWC and the Israeli netball association
Finalise the standards
Identify the best way to:
• Promote and advocate for the standards
• Support organisations to work towards meeting the standards
• Share good practices and relevant resources
• Review and develop the standards
• Coordinate safeguarding in sport internationally