

Sport GVP: Preventing Gender Based Violence in and through Sport

Combating GBV in Sports: A Collaborative Approach



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Training Package for Sport Professionals, Staff, and Executives



Combating GBV in Sports: A Collaborative Approach

Purpose: To explore collaborative and effective strategies for preventing and addressing GBV within sports and society.

Key Topics:

- Understanding the different forms of GBV in sport
- Choosing the appropriate behaviours and approaches for the creation of a positive environment within sports
- Responding effectively to GBV incidents, ensuring the safety and well-being of survivors
- Implementing effective advocacy strategies, including public awareness campaigns and utilising athletes voices.

Target Audience: Sport professionals, sports administrators, coaches, and athletes.

Understanding and Preventing GBV in Sport - 1

Defining GBV in Sport:

- Gender-based violence (GBV) in sports refers to harmful behaviours—physical, psychological, sexual, verbal, or economic—directed at individuals based on gender.
- It can occur between athletes, between coaches and athletes, or within sport organisations.

Types and Prevalence:

- Studies indicate that female and LGBTQ+ athletes face higher risks of harassment and abuse in sports environments (Lang et al., 2023).
- Abuse often goes unreported due to fear of retaliation, stigma and shame as well as or lack of trust in reporting systems.



Understanding and Preventing GBV in Sport - 2

Cultural and Systemic Barriers:

- Gender stereotypes reinforce male dominance in coaching and administration, marginalising female leadership.
- Inadequate policies and weak enforcement mechanisms allow GBV to persist in many sports organisations.

Prevention Strategies:

- Implementing clear anti-GBV and zero tolerance policies and training/mentorship programmes.
- Encouraging a culture of respect, positive role models and inclusivity within teams and sports' community.
- Establishing anonymous reporting channels to protect victims and encourage disclosures.



Creating a Safe and Inclusive Sports Environment

- **Inclusive Policies:** Gender-sensitive policies and zero-tolerance measures.
- **Leadership's Role:** Ensuring accountability and fostering cultural change.
- **Best Practices:**
 - Implementing codes of conduct and safeguarding measures.
 - Reviewing and updating on a regular basis relevant policies.



Responding to GBV Incidents

- **Immediate Response Measures:** Protecting victims and reporting protocols.
- **Long-Term Strategies:** Rehabilitation programmes and legal frameworks.
- **Case Studies:** Successful responses to GBV in sports organisations.

Example Case Study: The Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport

- Developed by the **Irish Sports Council** and the **Sports Council Northern Ireland**, this initiative aims to **safeguard children and youth (under 18) in sports**.
- Includes a **series of principles, policies, and guidelines** for sports organisations, coaches, and parents to follow.
- A **Safe Sport App** was launched to provide **guidance and real-time tracking for child safety**.
- National governing bodies must demonstrate adherence to this Code to receive **government funding**.
- **Impact:** The Code has significantly improved **awareness, prevention efforts, and reporting mechanisms** in youth sports.

Advocacy and Collaboration

- **The Role of Advocacy:** Promoting policy change and public awareness.
- **Building Partnerships:** Collaboration with NGOs, governments, and sports bodies.
- **Sustainable Change:** Ensuring long-term commitment to GBV prevention.



Reflection and Discussion

- Key Questions
 - *What role do different stakeholders play in combating GBV in sports?*
 - *How can sports organisations implement effective prevention strategies?*
 - *What are the best practices for responding to GBV incidents?*



Conclusion

Summary of Key Takeaways

- Collaboration is key to addressing GBV in sports.
- Prevention, response, and advocacy require multi-stakeholder engagement.
- Sustainable policies and education drive long-term change.



Questions?



THANK YOU



Co-funded by the
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