

Sport GVP: Preventing Gender Based Violence in and through Sport

Creating a Safe and Inclusive Sporting Environment



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Creating a Safe and Inclusive Sporting Environment

Training Package for Sport Professionals, Staff, and Executives



Understanding Gender-Based Violence: A Sport Perspective

Purpose: To understand systemic factors contributing to GBV in sports and explore strategies for creating a safe and inclusive environment.

Key Topics:

- Systemic factors and power dynamics that contribute to the prevalence of GBV in sports
- Role of institutional barriers in perpetuating unsafe environments and hindering the prevention of GBV
- Impact of a culture of silence on victims, existing reporting mechanisms, and the normalisation of harmful behaviours
- Actionable strategies to foster a safe, inclusive, and accountable sporting environment
- Policies and practices that challenge harmful norms and support survivors of GBV in sports

Target Audience: Sport professionals, sport administrators, athletes, coaches, educators in sports, sport psychologists, parents of athletes, officials, and referees.

Understanding Systemic Factors and Power Dynamics

Systemic Factors Contributing to GBV

- **Cultural Acceptance:** Societal norms that tolerate or justify GBV.
- **Legal Inefficiency:** Laws and enforcement failing to protect victims.
- **Economic Dependence:** Financial inequality creating vulnerability.

Power Dynamics in Sports

- **Enforced Male Dominance:** Violence used to maintain control.
- **Political Marginalisation:** Limited influence to effect change.
- **Resistance to Equality:** Violent resistance to social progress.



Addressing Institutional Barriers

Institutional Barriers in Sports:

- Cultural norms that normalise abuse and silence victims.
- Weak policies and inadequate enforcement.
- Hierarchical relationships discouraging victims from speaking out.

The Role of Governance and Leadership:

- Implementing and enforcing anti-GBV policies.
- Encouraging athlete-led advocacy and empowerment.
- Providing transparency and accountability in case handling.

Addressing the Culture of Silence

Understanding the Culture of Silence:

- Fear of retaliation or being labeled as a troublemaker.
- Pressure to prioritise performance over well-being.
- Stigma around reporting abuse or discrimination.

Strategies to Challenge Silence:

- Establishing confidential and accessible reporting channels.
- Encouraging open discussions on GBV and athlete well-being.
- Supporting victims through survivor-centred approaches.



Building a Safe and Inclusive Sports Environment

Importance of Safety, Inclusivity, and Accountability:

- Promoting gender-sensitive coaching and leadership.
- Creating policies that ensure equal opportunities for all athletes.
- Ensuring psychological safety and mental health support in sports.

Best Practices for Inclusion:

- Providing training on gender and diversity awareness.
- Implementing safe spaces and anti-harassment initiatives.
- Encouraging diverse representation in decision-making roles.



Reflection and Discussion

- Key Questions
 - *What policies can enhance safety and inclusion in sports?*
 - *How can sports organisations actively challenge the culture of silence?*
 - *What role do leadership and governance play in fostering inclusivity?*



Conclusion

Summary of Key Takeaways

- Systemic factors and institutional barriers contribute to GBV in sports.
- Addressing the culture of silence is key to fostering safety and inclusion.
- Leadership, policies, and athlete advocacy play a crucial role in change.



Questions?



THANK YOU



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