“Child protection from sexual victimization in sports: recent initiatives and the role of Council of Europe”

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Council of Europe

- A voluntary international organization dedicated since 1949 to safeguarding human rights
- Working within the framework of international cooperation, tolerance, understanding of differences, respect to diversity
- Working with the means of mainstreaming, disseminating information and good practices, raising awareness and building up collaborations
- Providing monitoring; technical assistance; setting standards of good practice; undertaking initiatives
- Relying on cooperation and voluntary participation
The Council of Europe: permanent pioneering initiatives for the protection of children from sexual victimization in all contexts
Council of Europe’s programs & initiatives for protecting & promoting the Rights of the Child

Building a Europe for and with Children

A Council of Europe programme for the promotion of Children’s Rights and the protection of Children from violence


"Growing with Children's Rights"

Council of Europe’s programs & initiatives for protecting & promoting the Rights of the Child

Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2016-2021)

Council of Europe Policy guidelines on integrated national strategies for the protection of children from violence
Council of Europe’s programs & initiatives for protecting & promoting the Rights of the Child

Corporal punishment

Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse

End Sexual Abuse of Children Online!

The Parliamentary Campaign to End Immigration Detention of Children

End Immigration Detention of Children

Institute of Child Health
Department of Mental Health and Social Welfare
Centre for the Study and Prevention of Child Abuse and Violence

Play the Game 2017
Eindhoven, the Netherlands, 26-30/11/2017
Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse

The Lanzarote Convention and the Committee of Parties

Initially open for signature on 25.10.2007; entering into force on 01.07.2010

Insofar signed by 47 member states and ratified by 42 states

Provided by Articles 39-41 of the Convention, the Committee became a useful resource for its implementation
LC: 47 member states have signed it and 42 have ratified it insofar:

Albania, Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Republic of Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, FYROM, Turkey, Ukraine
Main Axes of CoE’s LC

- Prevention
- Protection
- Prosecution
Prevention (examples)

- **screening procedures** for candidates to professions involving contacts with children
- **sex education and information** on the risks of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse
- encouraging involvement of the **private sector**, in particular the information and communication technology sector, the tourism and travel industry and the banking and finance sectors
- **measures for sex offenders** to minimize danger of them re-offending children
Protection (examples)

- early identification of child victims of sexual abuse (mandatory reporting)
- special telephone and/or internet SOS helplines to provide advice
- provisions for removing a child victim from the family environment but also to remove the alleged perpetrator from the home in order to avoid re-victimizing the child-victim.
- child-friendly procedures for victims
- limiting as much as possible the number of instances in which a child victim is to have contact with prosecuting authorities
Prosecution (examples)

- describing **new legal concepts** such as:
  - child sexual abuse: sexual activities with a child below the legal age according to domestic law or with any child (that is to say any person under 18) where use is made of force or threats, of a recognized position of trust; of a particularly vulnerable situation of the child
  - sexual abuse “within the family”
  - child prostitution including all involved parties
  - child pornography including all aware parties
  - “grooming”
  - child sex tourism addressing issues of country jurisdiction

- extension of the period for criminal proceedings
Children friendly Justice

- Nowadays, mainstream directive of most International organizations i.e. EC’s recommendation C778(20.02.2013) “Investing in Children: Breaking the circle of disadvantage” ...but many more...

- Also clearly mentioned in the Lanzarote Convention, Articles 30-36, but especially Article 35

- The core concept is to materialize the UN CRC’s Article 3.1 underlining the priority to securing the best interests of the child in administering services

- Included in the UN Guidelines on Justice in Matters involving Child Victims and Witnesses of Crime (2005)

- Elaborated in CoE’s Guidelines on Child friendly justice and Rec(2011)12 on Children’s Rights and Social Services and more...
Rationale for children-friendly justice

- To give the child a participating role in legal procedures in which it is involved;
- To avoid common errors with potentially very harmful implications such as re-traumatization during investigation procedures;
- Securing the rights of the defendant ("equal arms rule");
- Achieving timely execution of the entire clinical and legal inquiry;
- Taking into account the fact that in child sexual abuse cases very limited have medical/forensic decisive findings.
Milestones of CoE’s LC working methods

- Main leading tools: mainstreaming, networking, study visits, good practices’ demonstration, exchanging experiences, facilitating information flow, monitoring and reporting

- Collaboration and synergies with other CoE’s Departments or initiatives such as EPAS, GRETA etc

- Alignment with other European and International Organizations and Agencies respectful activities (EC, UN, UNICEF, WHO etc)
Specific actions and initiatives

- “One in Five” pan-European Campaign to stop child sexual victimization and developing awareness raising material
- Promoting collaboration and knowledge exchange in modes of forensic interviews and children friendly justice procedures in cases of child sexual abuse allegations
- Specific thematic initiatives such as:
  - Child protection from sexual victimization in sports’ context
  - Securing the rights of children and adolescents to choose sexual identity and orientation
  - Child protection from sexual abuse by the use of ICTs
- Focus on combating CSA within the circle of trust
- Monitoring implementation of the Lanzarote Convention
- In situ visits in emergency situations with vulnerable children’s groups (i.e. children on the move)
• to achieve further signature, ratification and implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse;
• to equip children, their families/carers and societies at large with the knowledge and tools to prevent and report sexual violence against children, thereby raising awareness of its extent.
18th of November:

Pan-European Day for the protection of children from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse

18 NOVEMBER
European Day on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse
Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse

www.coe.int/children

Resources of the “1 in 5” campaign: poster, brochure in 16 languages, TV spot, website:
www.underwearrule.org
Exchange of good practices’ examples: the Baranhus (“Children’s House”) Study visit, 2012
CONFERENCE ON INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ON CHILD PROTECTION, ROME, ITALY, 2012

Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
THE ROLE OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN TACKLING SEXUAL VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

Rome, 29 - 30 November 2012
International Conference Hall
Piazza della Sistina, 1
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Rome, Italy

Thursday, 29 November 2012

08.00 – 09.40 Registration

09.00 Opening Session - Welcome addresses
- Elisabetta Bolloni, Director General for Development Cooperation, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Philippe Boissat, Director General, Directorate General of Human Rights and Rule of Law, Council of Europe

Song 'Stop the silence', live performance by Ms. Aleksandra Kovač

09.30 Plenary Session – The Lanzarote Convention and the role of International Cooperation in tackling sexual violence against children
Chairpersons: Elisabetta Bolloni, Director General for Development Cooperation, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Eric Ruelle, Chairperson of the Lanzarote Committee
Mohamed Ali Aouali on behalf of Hassane Hamdoune, Manager of Solidarity, Family, Women and Social Development, Morocco
Patricia De Roes, Head of Equal Opportunities Department, Italian Presidency of the Council of Ministers
Caterina Chelini, Head of Juvenile Justice Department, Italian Ministry of Justice
Eugenio Selvaggi, Head of Justice Affairs Department, Italian Ministry of Justice

11.00 Coffee break
Child Protection from Sexual Abuse in the sports’ context
Sexual victimization of children in sports: a not-so-uncommon phenomenon and how it was made known

- Firstly, made known by decorated athletes, Olympic champions etc. who disclosed their personal narratives on their past victimization during childhood.
- In turn it was realized that the phenomenon no so uncommon, and perpetrators could be either other children athletes or adult persons in positions of authority and trust.
- A lot of empirical research was conducted since with some shocking outcomes published.
- Surprisingly, male children’s sexual victimization was found to be facilitated more in sports and environments in which male chauvinism and machismo prevailed...
Some of the empirical evidence

Alexander et. al., (2011), UK: emotional harm (75%), sexual harassment (29%), physical harm (24%), self-harm (10%) and sexual harm (3%)

Nielsen et. al., (1998), Denmark: 25% knew about or had experienced of CSA by a coach

Kirby et. al., (2000), Canada: 3.2% flushing/exposing, 2.6% unwanted sexual touching

Kirby et. al., (2002); Leachy et. al., (2002), reviews: between 2% and 8% of all children athletes

Leachy et. al. (2002), Australia: 31% of female and 21% of male athletes CSA; of these, 41% of females, and 29% of males within the sports environment; 46.4%, of the elite group by sports personnel

Fastings (2012), 10 European countries: sexual harassment in sport of 14%–73% and sexual abuse in sport of 2%–22%
Aims & objectives of child protection initiatives in sports

- Help create a **safe sporting environment for children** wherever they participate and at whatever level of sports activities
- Help **professionals safeguard their work**
- Provide a benchmark to assist sports providers and funders to **make informed decisions**
- Promote **good practice** and challenge practice that is harmful to children
- Provide **clarity on safeguarding children** to all involved in sport.
Child protection from sexual victimization in the sports context

- Putting in place effective operational procedures:
  - Requirement for two persons of the same sex with children to be present in changing rooms
  - Defining and reserving physical contact in only necessary occasions for training purposes
  - Respecting preferences or reservations of children-athletes on issues of i.e. changing rooms etc.
- Providing information to children-athletes on issues like child sexual abuse: encouraging them to disclose to safe channels which they can trust if they happen to know any such occasion
- Appointing authoritative officers for reviewing reports, disclosures or allegations from children–athletes
- Availability of specified procedures for filling such reports or allegations
- Standardly discussing such reports in agendas of administrative bodies
- Monitoring “excessive involvement” of personnel...
But most of all...

- Do not facilitate an atmosphere of blind submission to adult figures of authority but enhance self-conscious discipline
- Do not facilitate the logic of success “at any cost”... or “whatever that might take”...
- Do not support male chauvinism or machismo in sports
- Facilitate an atmosphere of transparency and dialogue among all agents adults and minors, coaches, administrations, children and their parents
- Accept – do not deny

IOC Consensus Statement on Training the Elite Child Athlete

Protecting the health of the athlete is the primary goal of the International Olympic Committee's Medical Commission. One of its main objectives is the promotion of safe practices in the training of the elite child athlete. The elite child athlete is one who has superior athletic talent, undergoes specialised training, receives expert coaching and is exposed to early competition. Sport provides a positive environment that may enhance the physical growth and psychological development of children. This unique athlete population has distinct social, emotional and physical needs which vary depending on the athlete's particular stage of maturation. The elite child athlete requires appropriate training, coaching and competition that ensure a safe and healthy athletic career and promote future well-being. This document reviews the scientific basis of sports training in the child, the special challenges and unique features of training elite children and provides recommendations to parents, coaches, health care providers, sports governing bodies and significant other parties.

Scientific Basis of Training the Elite Child Athlete

Aerobic and anaerobic fitness and muscle strength increase with age, growth and maturation. Improvement in these variables is asynchronous. Children experience more marked improvements in anaerobic and strength performance than in aerobic performance during pubescence. Boys' aerobic and anaerobic fitness and muscle strength are higher than those of girls in late pre-pubescence, and the gender difference becomes more pronounced with advancing maturity. Evidence shows that muscle strength and aerobic and anaerobic fitness can be further enhanced with appropriately prescribed training. Regardless of the level of maturity, the relative responses of boys and girls are similar after adjusting for initial fitness.

An effective and safe strength training programme incorporates exercises for the major muscle groups with a balance between agonists and antagonists. The prescription includes a minimum of two to three sessions per week with three sets, at an intensity of between 50 to 85% of the one maximal repetition (1RM).

An optimal aerobic training programme incorporates continuous and interval exercises involving large muscle groups. The prescription recommends three to four, 40 to 60-minute sessions per week at an intensity of 85 to 90% of maximum heart rate (HRM).

An appropriate anaerobic training programme incorporates high intensity interval training of short duration. The prescription includes exercise at an intensity above 90% HRM and of less than 30 seconds duration to take into account children's relatively faster recovery.
International Safeguards for Children in Sport

- Developing Your Policy
- Procedures for Responding to Safeguarding Concerns
- Advice and Support
- Minimizing Risks to Children
- Guidelines for Behavior
- Recruiting, Training and Communicating
- Working With Partners
- Monitoring and Evaluating
Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS)

EPAS provides a platform for intergovernmental sports co-operation between the public authorities of its member states. It also encourages dialogue between public authorities, sports federations and NGOs. This contributes to better governance, with the aim of making sport more ethical, more inclusive and safer.
CoE’s Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS) www.coe.int/epas
47 countries and a lot of useful resources

Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS)

The EPAS aims to promote sport and emphasise its positive values, to establish international standards and develop a framework for a pan-European platform of intergovernmental sports co-operation while at the same time helping the public authorities of member States of the EPAS, sports federations and NGOs to promote sport and make it healthier, fairer and better governed.

"Handbooks on good practices"
Protection of children from sexual victimization in sports


Strasbourg, 19 November 2013

“Inclusion and Protection of Children in and through Sport”

Conference co-organised by EPAS and the Hungarian Secretariat of Sport in co-operation with the Council of Europe’s ONE in FIVE Campaign to stop sexual violence against children

7-8 October 2013

Venue: Hotel Novotel Budapest Centrum
Rákóczi út 43-45
1088 BUDAPEST
Hungary

Minutes
CoE-Eu’s joint programs for protecting children from victimization in sports context: PSS and PSS+

http://pjp-eu.coe.int/en/web/pss/about1

About PSS and PSS+

The Council of Europe has a long standing commitment to promote a safe and healthy environment for athletes, and in particular the youngest ones. Beyond the norms and standards set up on this topic, it has been developing new approaches and concrete tools for public authorities and sport organisations with the support of the European Commission:

- Guidance, recommendations and training to sport administrators and coaches on physical, psychological and social well-being in sport → **Pro Safe Sport project (PSS-2014-2015)**
- Awareness raising tools and capacity building resources to increase the commitment of both governmental and non-governmental organisations towards sexual violence against children in sport → **Pro Safe Sport + project (PSS+-2017)**.

These new tools will complete the “Pro Safe Sport” package launched in 2015.

What is PSS?

What is PSS +?
Pro Safe Sport + (PSS+)
Put an end to sexual harassment and abuse against children in sport

- **An online resource centre on sexual violence against children in sport:** one-stop-shop for the development of preventive and protective policies and measures in Europe;

- **A pool of experts** which will guide member states and sport organizations in the implementation of measures and policies in the fight against sexual violence in sport;

- **A video-clip** for raising the awareness of those who have a role to play in sport, as well as the general public;

- **Technical support / tools** to help public authorities and sport organizations comply more closely with the existing standards and norms (conventions, recommendations, guidelines, etc.);

- **A training kit**
Stop Sexual Abuse of Children in Sport
Pro Safe Sport+

European Commission (Erasmus+) & Council of Europe (Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport)

Funded by the European Union and the Council of Europe

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

Implemented by the Council of Europe
CoE-EU’s PSS Online Academy


PSS Online Academy

The PSS self-assessment tool provides the opportunity to identify strengths and areas, where more work could be done to keep athletes safer and healthier.

The large resource on examples showcases, how stakeholder organisations design, implement and evaluate safe sport policies and projects. The PSS Academy also offers an easy-to-use multiplier workshop proposal providing guidance and orientation on safe sport topics.

The Pro Safe Sport kit provides tools and advice how to promote the well-being of young athletes.

The toolkit consists of nine elements:

- Master Presentation
  - This presentation highlights the normative framework on safe and healthy sport environments. Additionally, this section provides induction articles on “pro safe sport topics”.

- Explanatory glossary
  - The glossary contains the definitions of key terms and explanatory notes on the background of pro safe sport.
Thank you very much!!!

www.coe.int/lanzarote