Working with Victimized Athletes: Collaboration between Systems

EVAWI
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April 2019

Learning Objectives

- Recognize the **different roles** each professional has within the process
- Identify **barriers** that victimized athletes have in participating in an investigation
- Apply or join **coordination** efforts within crossover systems/processes
- Describe the **outreach** efforts of the SafeSport movement

Introduction to U.S. Center for SafeSport
Who We Are

- Independent nonprofit
- Headquartered in Denver
- First and only national organization of its kind.
- Focus is on ending ALL forms of abuse in sport.

Our Mission

To make athlete well-being the centerpiece of our nation’s sports culture through prevention, education and accountability.

Our Vision

Every athlete will be safe, supported and strengthened through sport.
What Does That Mean?

- **SAFE** → Athletes are protected from emotional, physical, and sexual abuse.
- **SUPPORTED** → Athletes enjoy welcome, respectful environments, and diversity is actively embraced.
- **STRENGTHENED** → Athletes use the skills they’ve learned in sport to contribute to the well-being of their communities. Every athlete thrives, on and off the field of play.

What We Focus On

- Bullying
- Harassment
- Hazing
- Physical abuse
- Emotional abuse
- Sexual misconduct and abuse

Who We Focus On

- **Education and Outreach:**
  - Sports participants at **EVERY** level
    - From rec leagues to the pros
    - All ages
    - U.S.
- **Response and Resolution:**
  - Safe, professional and confidential place for individuals to report sexual abuse within the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Movements.
Scope Of The Problem

45 MILLION
U.S. YOUTH PARTICIPATE IN ORGANIZED SPORT EACH YEAR

40-50%
EXPERIENCE SOME FORM OF ABUSE THROUGHOUT CAREER

WE CAN CHANGE THE GAME FOR ALL OF THEM

Before age 18, between 6-13% of competitive athletes experience some form of sexual abuse or assault within their sport, and the numbers may be even greater for elite athletes.

1 OUT OF EVERY 8 ATHLETES
5.534, or The Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017

Designates the Center to serve as the independent national safe sport organization, with the responsibility for developing policies and procedures to prevent the emotional, physical and sexual abuse of amateur athletes.

U.S. Center for Safe Sport Authorization: Additional Requirements—Any Amateur Sports Organization

- Applicable amateur sports organization
- Participates in an interstate or international amateur athletic competition
- Whose membership includes any adult who is in regular contact with any amateur athlete who is a minor

Differences Between Laws and Policies

Types of misconduct may be:
(1) Criminal
(2) A violation of SafeSport policy
(3) Another organizational policy
(4) All of these.

SafeSport and organizational policies may also prohibit behavior that is not criminal.
Systems

- Law Enforcement
  - Criminal Process
- Department of Family and Youth Services/Child Protective Services
  - Criminal Process
  - Family Law Process
  - Daycare Licensing
- Department of Education/Higher Education
  - Title IX Process
- US Anti-Doping Agency

What's unique about sport environment?

- Access to Athletes
  - Practice
  - Travel
  - Competition
- Trust of Adults
  - Power/Influence in Athlete's Success

Cases Reported by Month

- Graph showing cases reported by month from 2017 to 2018.
Reporting Process

Law Enforcement

U.S. Center for SafeSport

Online Reporting Form

https://safesport.org/report-a-concern

SafeSport Helpline (Web + App)

Access live, confidential help over the phone

866-200-0796

https://www.safesporthelpline.org/
We Can Stop the Cycle of Silence

How can I talk about what happened to me?

What are my options?

Who can help me?

What happens next?

VictimLink

U.S. CENTER FOR SAFESPORT

Response & Resolution Process

Response Form Contact Reporting Party

Intake

Informe Reporting Party Subject Matter

Jurisdiction

Preliminary Inquir

Investigation

Assigned to Investigator

Formal Investigation

Conclusion

Hearing before Arbitrator

Temporary Measures & Safety Planning

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Temporary Measure Defined

- What is a Temporary Measure?
  - A condition, restriction, or other requirement placed on or specific to a party (usually a Respondent) pending resolution an allegation of misconduct.
  - Can be implemented at any point prior to resolution
  - Not based on a finding
  - Violations of Temporary Measures are treated as an issue separate from underlying allegations being investigated

Temporary Measures in other Contexts

- Civil Cases
  - Protection order - domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking
  - Plan composed by and for victims
  - Enforced by court

- Education (K-12 and Higher Ed)
  - Measures to address and prevent harassment
  - Plan composed with input from reporting party
  - Implemented and enforced by campus administrators

- Amateur Sports
  - Measures to address and prevent abuse, retaliation
  - Plan composed by Center or NGB
  - Implemented and enforced by NGB

Purposes of Temporary Measures

- General precaution
- Risk mitigation
- Protective measure for:
  - Claimants
  - Respondents
  - Rest of sports community
- Avoiding unnecessary conflict or confrontation during investigative process
- Lessening likelihood of intimidation, harassment, or retaliation
- Preventing hostile sporting environment
Strategies for Creating Safe Environments

- Training & Education
- Screening
- Establishing Boundaries
- Managing Training & Competition
- Responding & Reporting
- Monitoring

Centralized Disciplinary Database

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<th>Name</th>
<th>U.S.</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Disciplinary Type</th>
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Strategies for Creating Safe Environments

Should Address The Following:

- **Training and Education:**
  - **Purpose:** Federal law authorizes the Center to develop training to prevent abuse (emotional, physical, and sexual) of any amateur athlete.
  - **Who it applies to:**
    - Covered Organizations (USOC and National Organizations) - required
    - National Member Organizations (Direct affiliation with NGB) - recommended
    - Local Affiliated Organizations - recommended
  - **What training is required:**
    - Core Center for SafeSport Training (3 modules)
    - Refresher Course(s) - annually
    - Adult members who are in regular contact with amateur athletes who are minors
    - Minor Athletes (required to be offered via parental consent)

- **Screening:**
- **Establishing Boundaries:**
- **Managing Training & Competition:**
- **Responding & Reporting:**
- **Monitoring:**
Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies

Additional Resources

What Can You Do?
- Changes in Law, Culture
  - Implement Policies
  - Situational Prevention
- Tell a colleague to get trained!
  - Support a Friend.
  - Be an Active Bystander.
- SafeSport Online Training

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Additional Training Resources: SafeSport Trained Online Course

- Training Covers:
  - Sexual Misconduct Awareness
  - Emotional and Physical Misconduct
  - Mandatory Reporting

- If affiliated with an NGB:
  - Access through safesport.org
    - Have USSF member ID ready

- For all others:
  - Access through athletesafety.org

Additional Training Resources: Youth & Parent

- Parents
  - Online Training Course

- Youth
  - Age-appropriate Training
    - Pre-school
    - Elementary School (K-2 & 3-5)
    - Middle School
    - High School

Parent Resources

- Parent’s Guide to Misconduct in Sport
  - What you need to know about abuse
  - Age-appropriate discussion starters about various forms of abuse
  - Prevention Questions
  - How to Respond
  - Signs and Symptoms of Abuse
Together we can:
Champion Respect. End Abuse.

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