

Safeguarding

New Policies

A submission from the International Optimist Dinghy Association

Purpose or Objective

On Nov 3, 2017, the IOC announced the launching of a Toolkit <https://www.olympic.org/athlete365/safeguarding/> to assist International Sports Federations (IFs) and National Olympic Committees (NOCs) to develop and implement Safeguarding Policies and Procedures to protect athletes from harassment and abuse in sport. The IOC Safe Sport initiative for athletes, can be found here: <https://www.olympic.org/athlete365/safe-sport/>

International Federations such as FISA (World Rowing) have taken the lead on this issue and have generated policies and procedures for their members in the education, awareness and implementation of safeguarding policies for their athletes from children, just starting in the sport, to Olympic athletes. For more information go to: <http://www.worldrowing.com/fisa/about-fisa/safeguarding-135508>

The International Optimist Dinghy Association (IODA) introduces thousands of children each year around the globe to the sport of sailing. These young sailors often start at about 7 or 8 years of age with many continuing to compete in the youth pathway classes until the age of 18, when they are no longer considered a minor, and continue competing into adulthood.

IODA believes that children and minors, particularly girls are the most vulnerable participants of our sport and that World Sailing, as the governing body of the sport of sailing worldwide, has a 'duty of care' to ensure that all athletes, particularly girls and boys, are safe both on and off the water.

Most importantly, children, minors and athletes of all ages must be free to participate in the sport irrespective of sex, age, disability, race, religion or belief, sexual identity or social status and have a right to be treated with respect and protected from physical, sexual and emotional harm or neglect.

It is the collective responsibility of World Sailing, MNA's, parents, coaches, sailing schools, class associations and event organizers to protect children and athletes.

Proposal

IODA proposes the following:

1. World Sailing develop Child Safeguarding Policies and Procedures for MNA's and other stakeholders such as Class Associations and World Sailing Event Organizers on how to deal with issues of sexual harassment and abuse, bullying, and discrimination and the actions and reporting processes required to minimize this in our sport.
 2. Physical, emotional, verbal, and cyber bullying exists, particularly amongst the youth. World Sailing needs to establish a zero-tolerance policy of this sort of behaviour through providing education and awareness programs to all its' members and stakeholders.
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3. World Sailing needs to provide guidelines on how to keep children safe both on and off the water by establishing standard safety requirements and protocols at events and schools for MNA's, and other stakeholders and class associations.
4. World Sailing to utilize the IOC Toolkit for 'Safeguarding Athletes from Harassment and Abuse in Sport' as the basis to develop specific and relevant safeguarding policies and procedures for the sport of sailing from girl and boy sailors, to men and women elite athletes.
5. The Athlete's Commission, Medical Commission, and Ethic's Commission and any other relevant body are to create the World Sailing Safeguarding Policies & Procedures for approval at the November 2020 Annual Conference with implementation in January 2021.

Current Position

There is no current policy on safeguarding children and/or athletes in World Sailing.

Appendix 6 – Disciplinary, Appeals & Review code **deals primarily with structures** applicable to allegations of Misconduct and to other processes in the sport of sailing. It does not provide a policy on Safeguarding

Reasons

1. Harassment and abuse are more common than one thinks. Ignoring it or by not taking any action means that we, as a sport, are indirectly allowing it to happen.
2. The UN Prevention of Violence against Woman and Girls in Sport states that "Violence against women and girls in sporting situations is a major barrier to their participation. The extent and forms of violence in sports that men, women, girls and boys experience differ, but evidence suggests that girls are at greater risk of sexual violence, harassment and exploitation."
3. Types of harassment and abuse [from the IOC Toolkit - definitions provided in the IOC Consensus Statement (2016)].

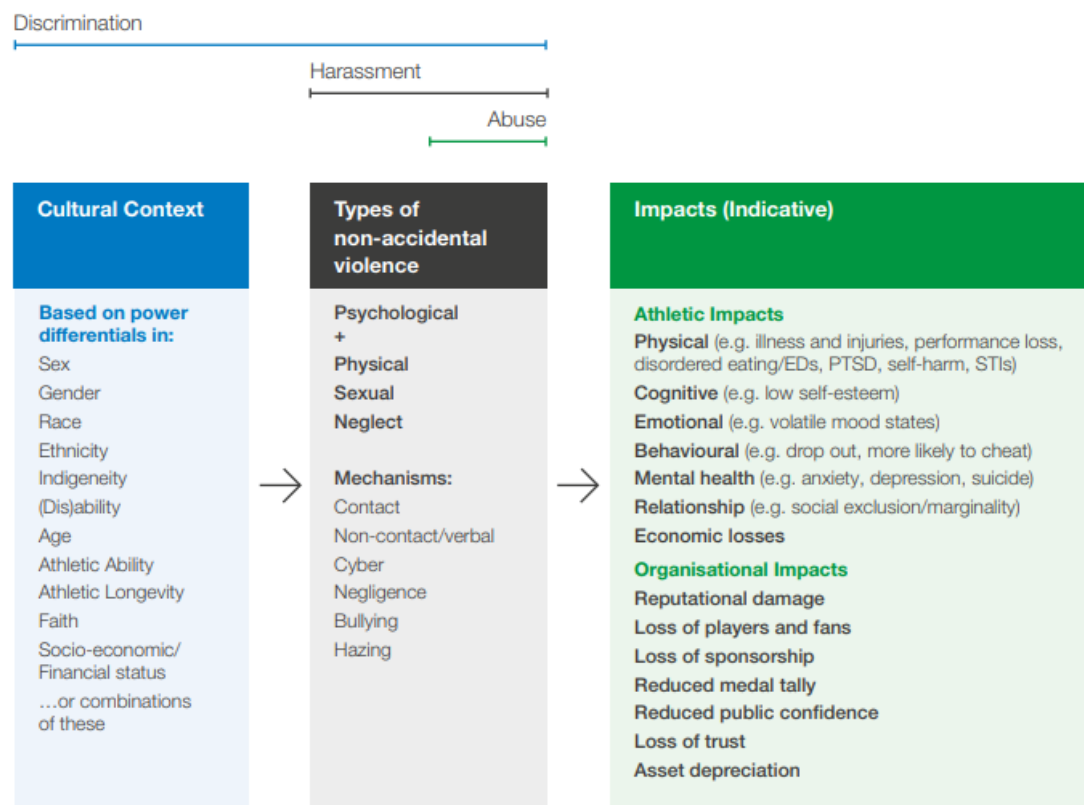
Harassment and abuse can be expressed in five forms which may occur in combination or in isolation. These forms of abuse are defined here as:

- Psychological abuse — means any unwelcome act including confinement, isolation, verbal assault, humiliation, intimidation, infantilization, or any other treatment which may diminish the sense of identity, dignity, and self-worth.
 - Physical abuse — means any deliberate and unwelcome act – such as for example punching, beating, kicking, biting and burning – that causes physical trauma or injury. Such act can also consist of forced or inappropriate physical activity (e.g., age-, or physique inappropriate training loads; when injured or in pain), forced alcohol consumption, or forced doping practices.
 - Sexual harassment — any unwanted and unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature, whether verbal, non-verbal or physical. Sexual harassment can take the form of sexual abuse.
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- Sexual abuse — any conduct of a sexual nature, whether non-contact, contact or penetrative, where consent is coerced/manipulated or is not or cannot be given.
- Neglect — within the meaning of this document means the failure of a coach or another person with a duty of care towards the athlete to provide a minimum level of care to the athlete, which is causing harm, allowing harm to be caused, or creating an imminent danger of harm.

Harassment and abuse can be based on any grounds including race, religion, colour, creed, ethnic origin, physical attributes, gender, sexual orientation, age, disability, socio-economic status and athletic ability. It can include a one-off incident or a series of incidents. It may be in person or online.

Harassment may be deliberate, unsolicited and coercive. Harassment and abuse often result from an abuse of authority, meaning the improper use of a position of influence, power or authority by an individual against another person.



4. The US Centre for SafeSport (SafeSport), which opened in March 2017, is a resource for any sports entity, from grassroots to professional. The centre provides consultation on prevention techniques and policies, while developing best practices and educational programmes focused on promoting athlete wellbeing and working to end emotional, physical and sexual abuse in sport. For more information go to:
<http://safesport.rassmantech.webfactional.com/about/our-work/>

Safe Sport - MINOR ATHLETE ABUSE PREVENTION POLICIES

<http://safesport.rassmantech.webfactional.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Minor-Athlete-Abuse-Prevention-Policies.pdf>

- a. Education & Training Policy – adults and minors/children
- b. Required Prevention Policies – One-on-One Interactions, Massages & Rubdowns, Locker Rooms/Changing areas, Social Media & Electronic Communications, Local Travel & Team Travel.