Safeguarding Children in Sport

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Overview of this session

Part 1: Linking to the previous session

Part 2: The International Safeguards for Children in Sport

Part 3: The research project

Part 4: The 'Children' Pillars

Part 5: Questions

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Key Considerations

Challenges of reporting child abuse cases where the local referral systems are weak – how can cases be reported without causing further harm?

Challenges of encouraging children to report – there has been a lot of effort in this regard within organisations, how much emphasis should be placed on children reporting?

Relationship within organisations or between partners on child safeguarding – are we making too many assumptions that other offices or partners child safeguarding measures are in place?

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Discussion Point

What makes sport different to other contexts?

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Safeguarding

In Sport	Around Sport	Through Sport
Sexual harassment	Abuse from parents	Physical fitness
Sexual abuse	Abuse from spectators	Self confidence
Physical abuse	Safety on match days	Gang violence
Emotional abuse	Trafficking	Learning to swim
Neglect	Forced displacement	HIV/AIDS education
Bullying	Prostitution	Child soldiers
Performance enhancing drugs	Child labour	Crime reduction
Age-cheating		Drug addiction
Faulty equipment		Refugees
Injury		Female Genital Mutilation
Dangerous objects on the pitch (e.g., glass, metal)		Life skills
Discrimination		Gender equity

Experiences

	All	Males	Females
Emotional harm	75	77	74
Sexual harassment	29	17	34
Physical harm	24	26	23
Self harm	10	9	10
Sexual harm	3	5	2

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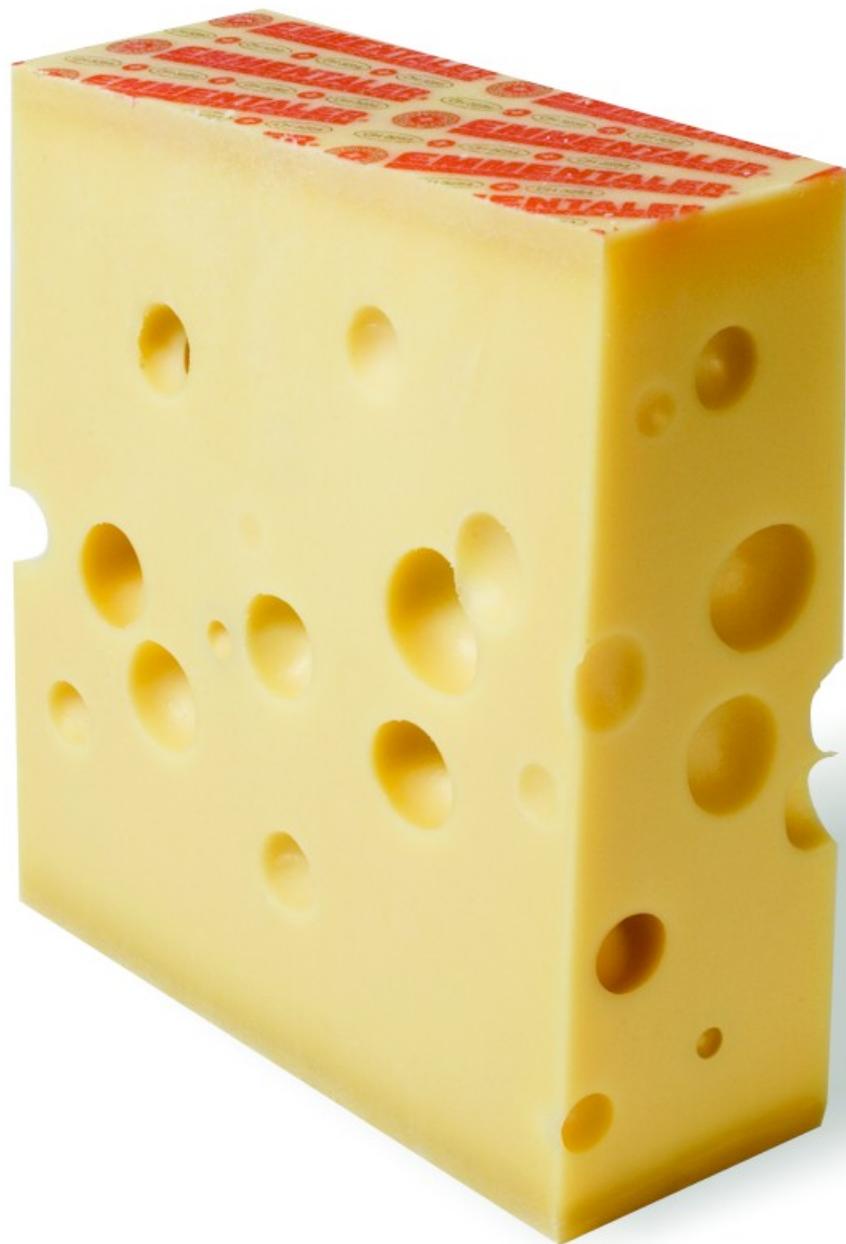
International Safeguards

1. Developing Your Policy
2. Procedures for Responding to Safeguarding Concerns
3. Advice and Support
4. Minimizing Risks to Children
5. Guidelines for Behaviour
6. Recruiting, Training and Communicating
7. Working With Partners
8. Monitoring and Evaluating

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Step 2: The Self Audit

This self-audit is a way to measure how far you have come on your safeguarding journey. The self-audit tool will identify areas of strength and areas in which your organisation may need to improve.

It acts as a checkpoint to draw out the minimum requirements that all sporting agencies committed to protecting children should be striving to meet.

The self audit relates to all 8 of the International and the subcategories that make them. Organisations are asked to determine if they have the safeguard

A) In place
B) Partially in place
C) Not in place

Step 2: The Self-Audit

For each of the below criteria, decide if your organisation has the criteria; a) in place, b) partially in place or c) not in place.

1. Risk assessments are available and conducted for activities, transport, accommodation and spaces
2. Steps are taken to minimise any risks identified through risk assessments
3. If the risks are assessed as too significant then the activity does not go ahead
4. Training is available to help staff and volunteers recognise the additional risks some children are exposed to, because of their race, gender, age, religion, disability, sexual orientation, social background or culture

Research Questions

RQ1: Where are the participant organisations now and at the end of the pilot in relation to the standards?

RQ2: What profile of activation do the various stakeholder groups demonstrate and how does this change with the implementation of the standards?

RQ3: What are the challenges and experiences of the participating organisations during the pilot?

RQ4: What can be learned from selected case studies of the pilot experience?

RQ5: What should be included in an implementation guide for organisations seeking to adopt the Standards?

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Method

We recruited 32 organisations to participate in our research

16 organisations worked directly with children

16 organisations governed other organisations who work with children

They worked at the local, national and international level

They included competitive sport, participation sport and sport for development

Case studies in the Caribbean, Kenya, Tanzania, Thailand and a top European football club

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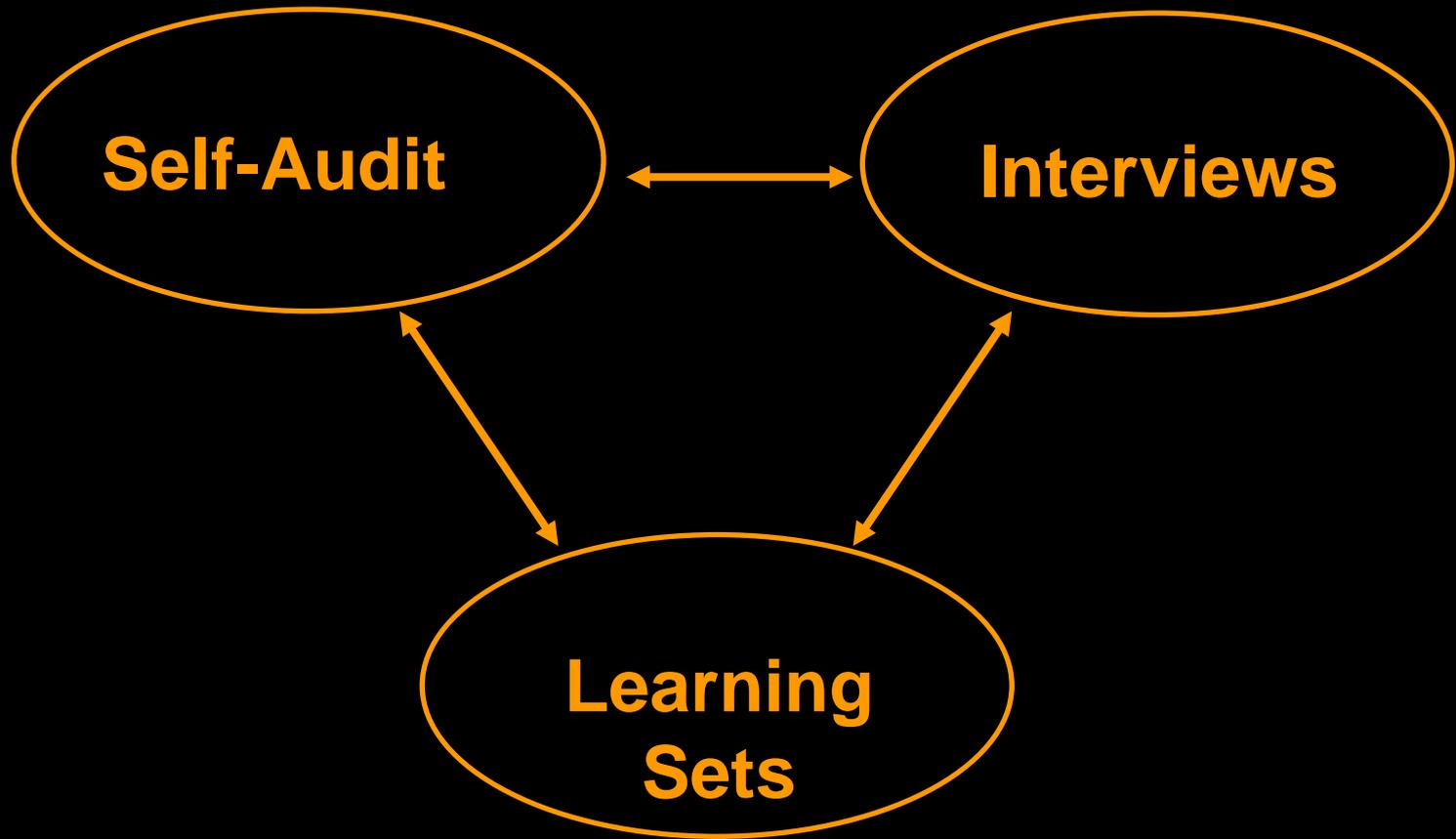
Activation States

	Opposed	Inactive	Reactive	Active	Proactive
Voice	Org				Self
Know		Self Org			
Feel	Org			Self	
Do		Self Org			

Implementation Guide

Step 1: Foundation – Where do we start?
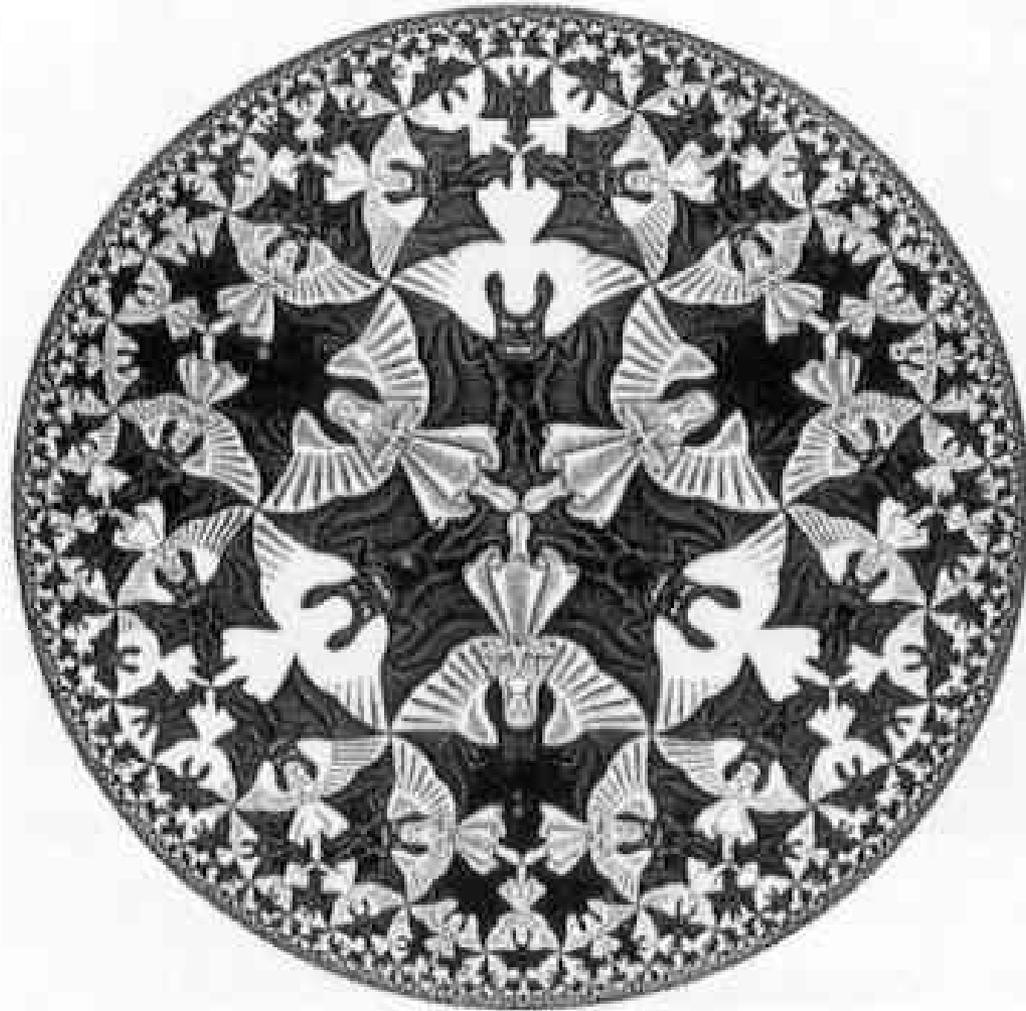
Step 2: Self-audit – Where are we now?

Step 3: Action planning – How can we begin the journey?

Step 4: Implementation – Moving towards the Safeguards

Step 5: Embedding – Maintaining the Safeguards

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Discussion Point

What factors do you think would facilitate implementation?

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Cultural Sensitivity

"In some countries, some forms of abuse are just accepted. A colleague was telling me that a 14 year old girl was raped by her uncle. Her mother had said that next time he needs to make sure he wears a condom. Actually, no, there should not be a next time. There needs to be a complete attitude change." (international governor)

Holistic

"My mantra has always been that safeguarding is a thread and not a blanket. In some organisations that you go to you end up seeing a blanket that is shrouded over everything and covered by reams of paper and policies. Safeguarding is not something that you should physically see in your face, it is something that is subtly positioned throughout the organisation, whether it is people, whether it is posters, people know that it is there." (local deliverer)

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Incentives

"We have to influence members through finding out what is their motivation, what is their passion. Normally they are passionate about the sport and about growing their sport. So this is what we tend to focus on. It is about making sport a positive experience so that they want to come, when they come they want to stay and when they go home they want to come back." (international governor)

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Leadership

"I think that a lot of the credit will go to the Chief Executive Officer. it is the same person who founded the organisation and because, from the outset, the people who developed the programme, from the very beginning one of the pillars of the programme was ensuring a safe environment. So even before we were using the words child protection, we were working on issues of safety, you know, and this built a culture through the organisation of child protection which has just held us in good stead." (national deliverer)

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Dynamic

"It is about saying that it can take up to 10 years and that here are the key staging posts along the way. The self audit is useful for this to say, right, here is the baseline, here is where I came in, and 2 years down the line here is where we are now. So you actually feel as though you are progressing somewhere. Even if you have just targeted a couple of areas and you have a couple of things in place, you have actually shown progress and someone is acknowledging that." (international governor)

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Resources

"One of our key challenges is that outside of our small core team, we do not have any paid staff. they are all volunteers. They are all doing it on top of their day jobs. They tend to see the Standards as a bit of a, I don't know, a noose maybe sometimes." (international governor)

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Engaging Stakeholders

"We are very passionate about not being 1st world experts going in to fix people. We want everything we do to be about growing people within their community, acknowledging their reality and helping them to identify their next steps. Our concept of education is not about an empty vessel which needs to be filled, whether they want it or not. We move people from learned helplessness, through self organised learning through to self directed learning." (international deliverer)

Networks

"I think that it is very important because the tendency is a lack of, a feeling of isolation by small organisations. So this is actually a way in which people can actually talk about it. There is a challenge in the day to day work. There is a conscious need but, again, it is isolation. I mean, I don't know what it is like in other countries but here and child protection policies, it is like what planet did you come from?" (local deliverer)

Safeguarding Pillars

Pillar	Description
Cultural sensitivity	There was a clear need for flexibility within the Safeguards such that they can be tailored to the cultural and social norms of the context
Holistic	Safeguarding should be viewed as integrated into all aspects of an organisation as opposed to being an additional element
Incentives	There needs to be a clear reason for individuals and an organisation to work towards the Safeguards
Leadership	The Safeguards need to have strong support from those working in key leadership roles
Dynamic	The safeguarding systems within an organisation need to continually be reviewed and adapted to maintain their relevance and effectiveness
Resources	The implementation of the Safeguards needs to be supported by appropriate resources (e.g., human, time and financial)
Engaging stakeholders	A democratic approach should be adopted which invites and listens to the voices of those in and around the sport (e.g., parents, coaches, community leaders)
Networks	An organisation's progress towards the Safeguards will be strengthened by developing networks with other related organisations

Caribbean Case study

Examining the need and implementation of safeguarding in sport and sport for development in…

- ✓ Trinidad and Tobago
- X St Vincent
- X St Lucia
- ✓ Dominica

Interviews, focus groups and observations with…

- Government officials
- Coaches (Physical Educators)
- Head Teachers

- Children
- CSDA Staff
- Owners of Sports Clubs

Is there a need for safeguarding?

"we have reached a point of crisis now in regards to child protection"
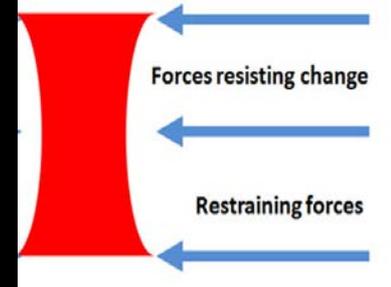
Deliverer in Trinidad and Tobago

"it is very important and we definitely need to do more in that regard"

Government official in Dominica

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Challenges

**Denial (it is a taboo topic)**

Lack of awareness/training on the diverse nature of abuse and its effects.

Lack of policy/procedures/case management systems

'In the absence of safeguarding policy, arbitration occurs with great difficulty and there is little to convince organisations that safeguarding is to be taken seriously.'

Forces resisting change

Restraining forces

Solutions
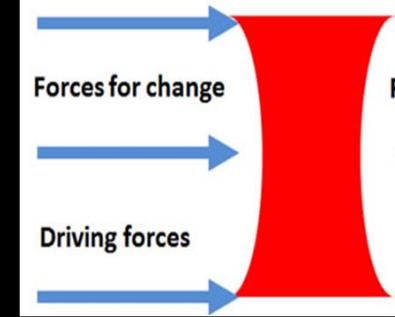
- The proposed development of a regional policy

- Safestamp!
    - 'Safe stamp is brilliant and it will feed into how we work with coaches in the future, it's an awesome plan'

- CSDAs safeguarding workshops

- Working with internationally renowned experienced organisations.

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Evidence of impact

- Organisations report increased awareness and efficacy
  - ✓ Over 60 Coaches have attended workshops and counting…

- Regional Conference: Redefining Normal
  - ✓ Attended by 70+ people from around the world…

'they helped us to set up a child protection policy and generally helped to build our organisation, I'm not sure what we would have done without them'
Deliverer in Trinidad and Tobago

Next steps

- Complete and implement the proposed safeguarding policy

  - Make this culturally adapted but influenced by Standards

- Safe stamp

  - It only works if people use it!

- Momentum

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We welcome your questions…