



Teaching Awareness of Ethical Governance in Sport

Topic: 8

Sexual Harassment and Abuse in Sport

Overview:

This lecture focuses on the phenomena of Sexual Harassment (SH) and Abuse (AB) in sport settings. Different categories of related behaviours are presented as well as prevalence rates based on recent studies. The unconformity in definitions and assessment methodology is discussed with an emphasis on the severity of incidents. The mechanisms for the manifestation of such behaviours are outlined. The immediate and long term consequences of SH and AB on athletes' mental health, as documented by relevant research, are discussed. Finally, recommendations regarding prevention, for sport organizations and for health care providers, are presented.

Aim:

The aim of the topic is to inform students regarding sexual harassment and abuse in sport settings and to increase their awareness regarding their causes and their effects on athletes' mental health as well as the dynamics of such behaviours in sport settings. Moreover, to bring into students' attention relevant important documents by major Sport Organizations.

Objectives:

By the end of the lecture, seminar and independent study tasks, students will be able to:

- ❖ Define sexual harassment and abuse in the context of sport and society more generally
- ❖ Identify different types of sexual harassment and abuse in sport
- ❖ explain the mechanisms through which sexual harassment and abuse are manifested in sport
- ❖ Be aware of the prevalence rates of sexual harassment and abuse in sport
- ❖ Demonstrate understanding of the consequences of sexual harassment and abuse in sport on athletes' mental health.
- ❖ Identify strategies to help athletes (and sports administrators) recognize and deal with possible sexual harassment and abuse.

Case Study Compendium:

Case #39: Coach – Breaches of Welfare Policy
Scenarios provided on TAGS website



Week 8 - Things to Do / Independent Study Tasks

Students work in groups the following tasks and hypothetical scenarios:

- You have been hired on a national soccer league, and your role is to deal with incidents of sexual harassment and abuse. How might you try to curb or limit, or stop such incidents?
- Think about some strategies in order to help athletes to react properly when faced with potential sexual harassment or abuse

Resource Handout - Readings and recommended URLs

Alexander, K, Stafford, A & Lewis, R 2011, The Experiences of Children Participating in Organised Sport in the UK. NSPCC, London.

Fasting, K. Brackenridge, C., & Walseth, K. (2007). Women athletes personal responses to sexual harassment in sport. Journal of Applied Sport Psychology, 19, 413- 433.

Fasting, K., Chroni, S., Helvik, S.E., & Knorre, N. (2010). Sexual harassment in sport towards females in three European countries. International Review for the Sociology of Sport, 46, 76-89.

International Olympic Committee (2016). Safeguarding athletes from harassment and abuse in sport. Available from https://d2g8uwgn11fzhj.cloudfront.net/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/18105952/IOC_Safeguarding_Toolkit_ENG_Screen_Full1.pdf

Mountjoy M, Brackenridge C, Arrington M, et al. Br J. (2016) International Olympic Committee consensus statement: harassment and abuse (non-accidental violence) in sport. Sports Medicine, 2016; 50:1019– 1029.

Vertommen T. et al. (2018) Severe interpersonal violence against children in sport: Associated mental health problems and quality of life in adulthood. Child Abuse and Neglect, 76, 459-468

Vertommen T. et al. (2016). Interpersonal violence against children in sport in the Netherlands and Belgium. Child Abuse and Neglect, 51, 223 -236.

UNICEF (2010). Protecting Children from Violence in Sport. A Review with a focus on industrialized countries. Available from: https://www.unicef-irc.org/publications/pdf/violence_in_sport.pdf



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