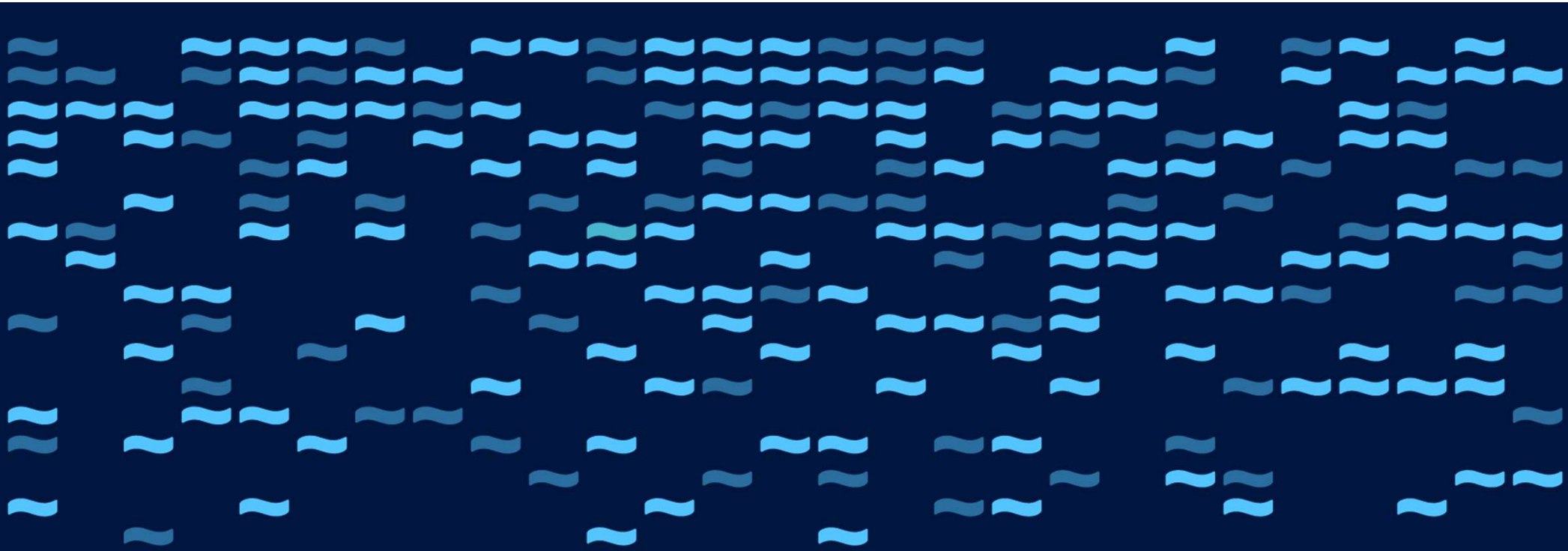

AQUATICS
Social
Responsibility
ATHLETE WELFARE
IN SPORT CONFERENCE 2026
“PROTECTING OUR ATHLETES”
WELCOME
SPÓRT ÉIREANN
SPORT IRELAND
SWIM IRELAND
EUROPEAN AQUATICS
IS PROUD TO CELEBRATE
EUROPE DAY



Opening Address

António Silva

President European Aquatics

Opening Address

Sarah Keane

EA and WA Bureau Member

Chair European Aquatics DEIB Committee

EUROPEAN AQUATICS

Morning Session

Introduction

European Policy Update
Paola Ottonello

Complaint v Concern
Andrew Azzopardi

Beyond the Investigation
Mhairi Maclennan

Coffee Break

Being a Safeguarding Lead
Kate Hills

EOC Safe Harbour Project
Carlotta Giussani

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Policy Update

Sport Unit, DG Education, Youth, Sport and Culture, European Commission

Paola Ottonello
Team Leader
Sport Unit
European Commission

European Commission

Key topics and themes

➢ ***Integrity and values in sport***

- *European Sport Model*
- *Good governance*
- *Fight against the manipulation of sport competitions*
- ***Safe environment in sport***
- *Athletes' rights*
- *Fight against hate speech*
- *Anti-Doping*
- *Sport and education*
- *Gender equality*
- *Traditional sports*

➢ ***Participation in sport and health-enhancing physical activity***

- *Creation of adequate opportunities for sport and physical activity for all generations*
- *Promoting physical activity*
- *Mental health and well-being in sport*

➢ ***Socio-economic and sustainable dimensions of sport***

- *Mainstreaming sport*
- *Investments in sport*
- *Sustainable sport; including in sport facilities and spatial planning*
- *Innovation and digitalisation*
- *Sport tourism*
- *Major sporting events*
- *Strengthening the resilience of the sport sector*

2026 Work Streams

EU Work Plan for Sport 2024–2027 | Three parallel streams shaping European sport policy

2026 Council Conclusions

Planned outputs

Sport Tourism

Promoting the role of sustainable sport tourism to boost communities in economic, social and environmental terms

Traditional Sports & Games

Preserving and promoting European intangible cultural heritage through indigenous sports and games.

Open Method of Coordination

Expert groups

Athletes' Rights

Protecting fair treatment, representation and welfare of athletes at all levels.

Hate Speech in Sport

Tackling discrimination, racism and online abuse targeting sport participants.

Sport & Mental Health

Leveraging sport's role in psychological well-being and social connectedness.

Share 2.0 Communities of Practice

Peer learning networks

Green & Sustainable Sport

Reducing the environmental footprint of sport organisations, infrastructure and events.

Sport, physical activity & Health

Driving physical activity uptake as a public health and prevention tool.

Innovation in Sport

Embracing technology, new formats and business models across sport.

Sport & Society

Harnessing sport's social value: inclusion, volunteering and civic engagement.

Events and Campaigns



European Week of Sport: 23-30 September

- Events in 39 countries (Erasmus+ , Eastern Partnership and Western Balkans)
- EU-level opening ceremony in the Presidency country
- #BeActive Night
- **NEW: #BeActive Winter**

#BEACTIVE EU SPORT AWARDS

The #BeActive EU Sport Awards announced in 2025, build on the success of past #BeActive Awards and #BeInclusive EU Sport Awards

Awards ceremony on 23 June 2026, in Brussels

European Commission

Promoting the European Sport Model

Inclusive Participation

Sport is for everyone regardless of age, ability, gender or background. Inclusion is a core value, not an add-on.

Solidarity Between Levels

Revenue and resources flow downward through the pyramid, ensuring professional sport reinvests in grassroots and community sport.

Open & Fair Competition

Access to competition is merit-based and open. Promotion and relegation systems ensure any club can rise through the ranks.

Autonomy of Sport Federations

National and European federations self-regulate their sports within the rule of law, preserving the specificity of sport.

Community-Based Organisations

Clubs and associations are rooted in local communities. They serve social, educational and health functions beyond competition alone.

Pyramid Structure

Sport is organised from grassroots clubs through regional and national federations up to European bodies. Each level reinforces the other.

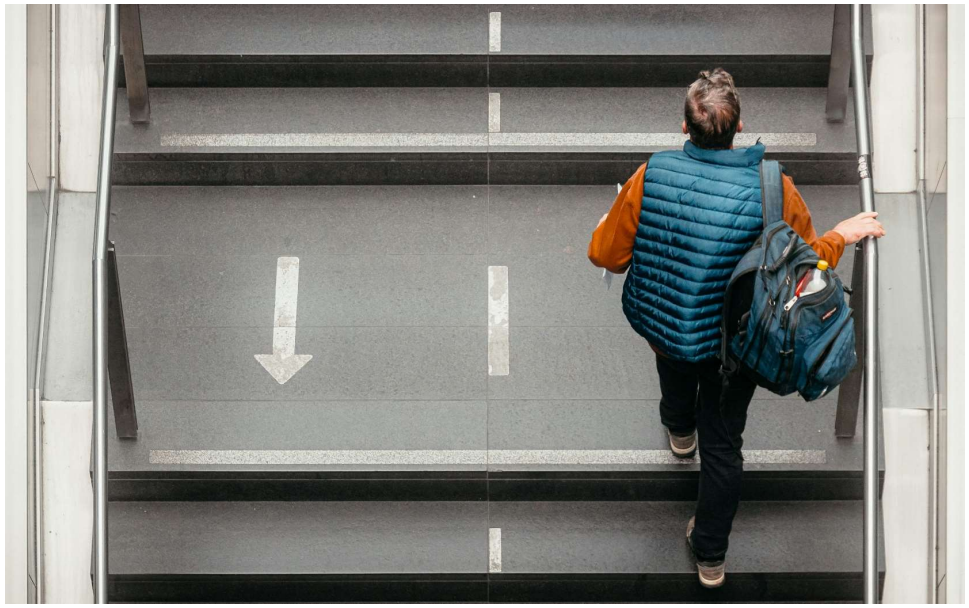
Good Governance & Volunteers

Adherence to transparency, accountability and ethical conduct. Volunteers are the backbone of sport — enabling clubs and events to function.

European Commission

HEPA – Health-Enhancing Physical Activity

A healthy lifestyle for all



Physical inactivity and sedentary behavior are key risk factors for noncommunicable diseases. Promoting **physical activity** requires targeted actions to engage the least active groups across settings like **schools, workplaces, and communities.**

Focus areas:

- Physical Activity
- Sport
- Education
- Health
- Working Environment
- Built Environment
- Digitalisation

The EU Work Plan for Sport 2024-2027 calls for the revision of the **HEPA Council Recommendation**, foreseen in 2027, to better address today's challenges. In collaboration with Member States, HEPA Europe and WHO, focus areas have been identified.

European Commission

Erasmus+



Key Action 1

Mobility of staff in the field of sport



Key Action 2

Cooperation partnerships,
Small-scale partnerships,
Not-for-profit sport events,
Capacity building



Key Action 3

European Week of Sport (for policy development and cooperation)



Sport Prize

#BeActive EU Sport Awards



Cooperation partnerships
Budget EUR 36 M



Small-scale partnerships
Budget EUR 10 M



Not-for profit sport events
Budget EUR 11 M



Capacity building
Budget EUR 2 M

European Commission

Thank you.

Paola Ottonello
Team Leader
Sport Unit
European Commission

European Commission


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ATHLETE WELFARE
IN SPORT CONFERENCE 2026
"PROTECTING OUR ATHLETES"
Concerns and Complaints
HOW GOVERNING BODIES BUILD TRUST THROUGH EARLY RESPONSE,
SAFER INVESTIGATIONS AND ATHLETE-CENTRED SAFEGUARDING
Andrew Azzopardi
Director of Safeguarding
ATP
SPÓRT ÉIREANN
SPORT IRELAND
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Ella

She tried to tell someone.

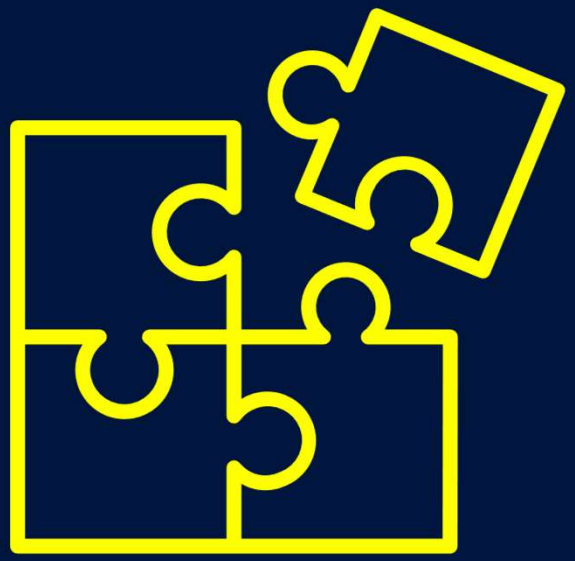
Not with a complaint.

With a concern.

EUROPEAN AQUATICS

Concerns are often the first language of harm

The puzzle of disclosure



- Fragmented Disclosures
- Behavioural Indicators
- Silence
- Fear
- Testing Trust

EUROPEAN AQUATICS

What organisations often get wrong

AQUATICS
Social
Responsibility

EUROPEAN AQUATICS

A complaint is not the starting point of safeguarding



COMPLAINT

Formal process
Allegation
Procedural pathway

CONCERN

Safeguarding information
Behavioural indicators
Risk indicators
Wellbeing response

EUROPEAN AQUATICS

Why athletes may not report clearly

- Fear
- Shame
- Loyalty
- Selection Pressure
- Normalisation
- Lack of trust
- Self-blame



EUROPEAN AQUATICS

Safeguarding culture is leadership culture.

Athletes watch what leaders tolerate.



EUROPEAN AQUATICS

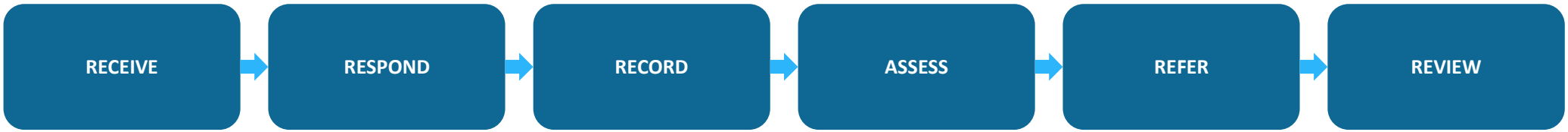
Investigations are not just about facts, they are primarily about wellbeing.

- Safety
- Dignity
- Transparency
- Independence
- Accountability
- Procedural Fairness



Responding to concerns

A clear, repeatable process for every concern





What athletes remember

Were they believed?

Were they informed?

Were they protected?

Were they avoided?

Did speaking up help?

EUROPEAN AQUATICS

Safer sport is achievable.

- Early response builds trust
- Independent systems matter
- Athletes must be heard
- Transparency strengthens culture
- Accountable leadership shapes safety and wellbeing

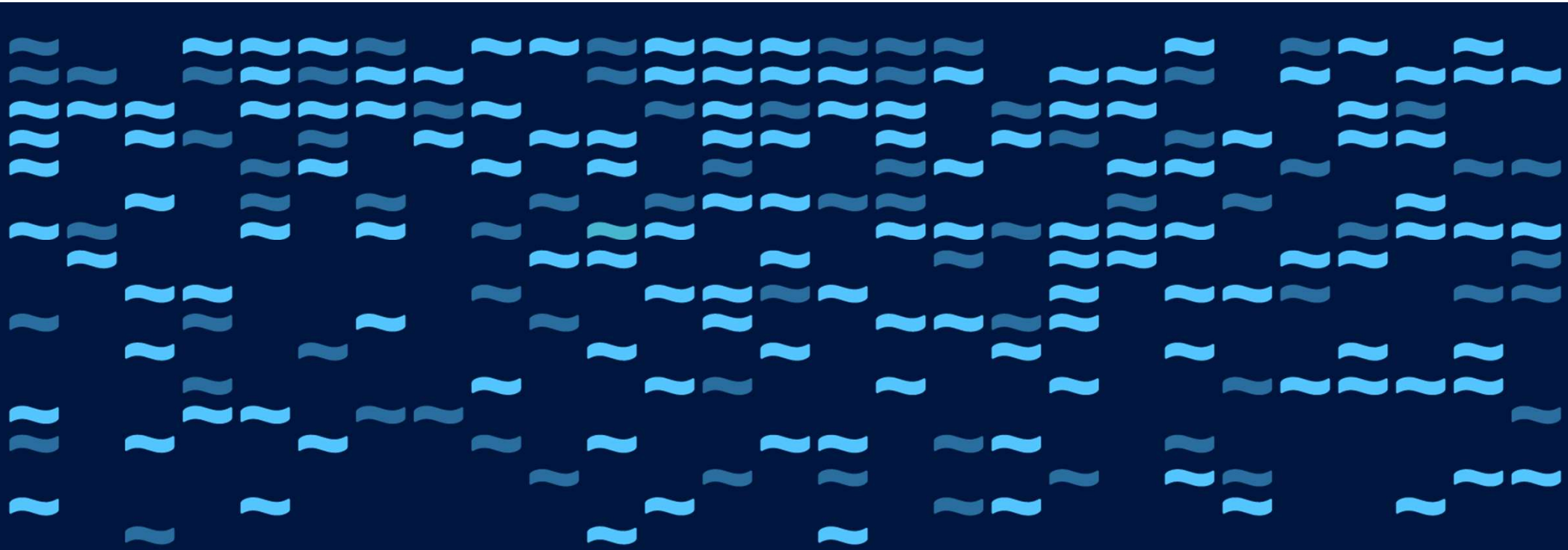
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EUROPEAN AQUATICS

Every concern is an opportunity to build **trust** …
or **lose it**.

Athletes do not judge organisations by whether concerns arise.
They judge them by what happens next.





What would athletes say about your reporting cultures?

BEYOND THE INVESTIGATION

HOW WE MAKE INVESTIGATIONS SAFER FOR ATHLETES.

Mhairi Maclennan, Kyniska Advocacy Co-founder & CEO

@kyniskaadvocacy

hello@kyniskaadvocacy.com

LOOK AFTER YOURSELF, FIRST

- Topics today will include abuse, safeguarding, distress and institutional harm
- If you need to step away, please do so.



WHAT THE NEXT 30MINS HOLDS...



BEYOND THE INVESTIGATION: BUILDING PERSON-CENTRED PROCESSES



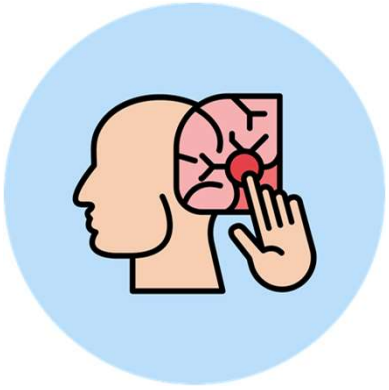


WHAT IS TRAUMA?

*Trauma is **a psychological and emotional response** to deeply distressing events that overwhelm an individual's ability to cope.*

In the context of sport and investigations, trauma can result from experiences such as abuse, harassment, bullying, coercion, or extreme pressure within a sporting environment.

NB: Trauma changes how information is processed and remembered



WHAT ARE THE IMPACTS OF TRAUMA?

⚠ Memory and recall	Memory/recall may be fragmented → don't equate inconsistency with dishonesty
⚠ Emotional/psychological responses	Hypervigilance → silence and vague emails can feel threatening
⚠ Behavioural responses	Shame/self-blame → avoid language that implies responsibility
⚠ Physical responses	Loss of control → offer choices, explain steps, avoid surprises



RETRAUMATISATION RISK POINTS IN CASE COMMS

Repeating their story to multiple people

Sudden changes without explanation

Outcome communication that feels like dismissal

Long silence/'no update' periods

Legalistic language/ dismissive tone

PRINCIPLES INTO PRACTICE

S **Is it safe?**

Could this message increase fear, shame, or distress? Is it overly detailed or abrupt?

A **Does it protect agency?**

Have we offered choices and avoided pressure?

F **Is it fair?**

Clear, accurate, impartial, and consistent with what others have been told?

E **Is it empowering?**

Does it validate, explain options, and support autonomy without over-promising?

Practical behaviours

- Lead with empathy and clarity
- Create predictability
- Protect agency and choice
- Stay fair and consistent
- Repair quickly when things go wrong

THE COMMUNICATION AGREEMENT

Agree early, revisit often



- Preferred contact method + accessibility needs
- Update frequency (even if no change)
- Named contact + deputy cover
- What you can/can’t share (privacy, due process)
- Support/advocacy involvement (who can be copied in)

TONE

Trauma-informed ≠ promising outcomes

- Validate impact and courage
- Be honest about limits and timelines
- Avoid absolutes
- Replace vague reassurance with clear process





BEYOND THE INVESTIGATION:

RESPONDING WITH CARE

[redacted]

From: [redacted]

To: [redacted]

Wed, Jun 24, 2020 at 4:32 PM

Hi [redacted]

I would like to file a formal complaint against my previous coach, [redacted]. I'm not sure how this works, whether I submit it in writing or via a phone call? The complaint falls under a lack of professionalism and inappropriate comments/behaviour of a sexual nature.

Kind regards,

[redacted]

NAVIGATING FIRST DISCLOSURE

- What do we know?
- What further enquiries do we need to make?
- What support can we offer?
- What immediate action(s) need to be taken?

THINK ABOUT:

Choice and control

Clear next steps

Support and reporting options

Boundaries and confidentiality

The **emotional and psychological** impact on individuals making disclosures.

NB: ***It's key to establish from the beginning that the outcome of an investigation does not determine whether a victim is believed or not, it only assesses evidence and procedural outcomes.***

SHOWING CARE IN OUR RESPONSES

1. Acknowledge and thank
2. Validate impact (without interrogating)
3. Offer choice (how to proceed, who to involve)
4. Explain next steps + timescales
5. Support/signposting + check-in

LANGUAGE PATTERNS THAT CAN UNINTENTIONALLY CAUSE HARM

- Implied doubt: “claims/allegations” (in direct survivor comms), “if this happened…”
- Deflection: “we take this seriously” without acknowledgement
- Burden shifting: “you must…” / “why didn’t you…”
- Minimising: “historic”, “misunderstanding”, “inappropriate behaviour” for serious harm
- Procedural overload: long lists of policies/processes in place of care

neutral terminology may be required in formal records or disciplinary documentation, but direct communications with a person affected by harm should still be human, clear, and non-distancing.

A STARTER FOR TEN

Thank you for coming forward about this...

You've done the right thing by reaching out...

Here is what I can do today, and what will happen next.

Would you prefer email or a call? Would you like someone to join you for support?

We understand that initiating contact like this can be incredibly challenging





BEYOND THE INVESTIGATION:

COMMUNICATING WITH CARE

REVISITING OUR COMMUNICATION AGREEMENT

Hi [redacted]

Mon, Oct 19, 2020 at 9:50 AM

Good to hear from you - has been a while.
I've been wondering at what stage of the process things were etc. I'm free to chat tomorrow, very busy today with work. Would you be able to send the questions along in advance of the call?

Best,

[redacted]

Silence can feel like abandonment

- Agree update frequency
- Even "no change" messages should include: what stage, what's next, support, next contact date

- Onus on the complainant
- Inaction and inconsistent messaging
- No support and lack of communication

THE “NO UPDATE” UPDATE

This communication should

1. Confirm they haven’t been forgotten
2. Explain why there’s no change (at a high level)
3. State the next contact point
4. Offer support

Hi [redacted]

Tue, 2 Dec 2025, 10:25

How are you getting on?

I'm conscious that I didn't check in with you after the witness mapping we did last week and I wanted to make sure you knew that we're still here and if you feel like you need a chat or just want to communicate via email, please feel free to do so.

Take care,

[redacted]

HARD MOMENTS

Hi [redacted]

I just wanted to check in and see how you were feeling about [redacted]

No need to respond but just a reminder that I'm here and that I recognise that it may have been difficult to read.

Take care,

[redacted]

COMMUNICATING WITH CARE

1. Start with acknowledgement
2. Share outcome clearly (no winding preamble)
3. Explain rationale (plain English)
4. Pause for reaction; allow silence 
5. Next steps: options, support, review/appeal routes
6. Confirm in writing afterwards 

Outcome ≠ **belief**

Explain the decision in plain language and outline next steps

THE OUTCOME EMAIL

[redacted]

From: [redacted]

To: [redacted]

Tue, Feb 2, 2021 at 4:35 PM

Dear [redacted]

I hope you are well.

Following your complaint about [redacted] and the subsequent investigation, [redacted] convened an Independent Disciplinary Panel to consider the case. The Panel upheld the complaint and the decision was to withdraw [redacted] Licence to coach and to ban him from holding a coach licence for a period of 5 [five] years. [redacted] was notified and chose not to appeal the decision. Brief details of the decision will be published on the [redacted] in the next week. No names other than [redacted] will be included.

I know that reporting this to [redacted] would not have been easy for you and I would like to thank you for bringing this case to light. The wellbeing and safety of athletes remains our paramount concern and if we can support you in any way please let me know.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Best Regards

[redacted]

OUTCOME LANGUAGE STRESS TEST



- [x] Does it acknowledge impact?
- [x] Is the decision stated clearly?
- [x] Does it avoid blaming/minimising?
- [x] Does it explain next steps and support?
- [x] Does it maintain fairness for all parties?

S **Is it safe?**
Could this message increase fear, shame, or distress? Is it overly detailed or abrupt?

A **Does it protect agency?**
Have we offered choices and avoided pressure?

F **Is it fair?**
Clear, accurate, impartial, and consistent with what others have been told?

E **Is it empowering?**
Does it validate, explain options, and support autonomy without over-promising?

IN YOUR SHOES

tips to make it easier to do the right thing under pressure

- Template pack: disclosure reply, update, delay, change of handler, interim measures, outcome
- Communication agreement as standard practice
- Named case comms lead + cover plan
- Simple review checklist before sending
- Learning loop: review feedback and improve



CHILDREN FIRST Protecting Scotland's Children

QUESTIONS & FEEDBACK

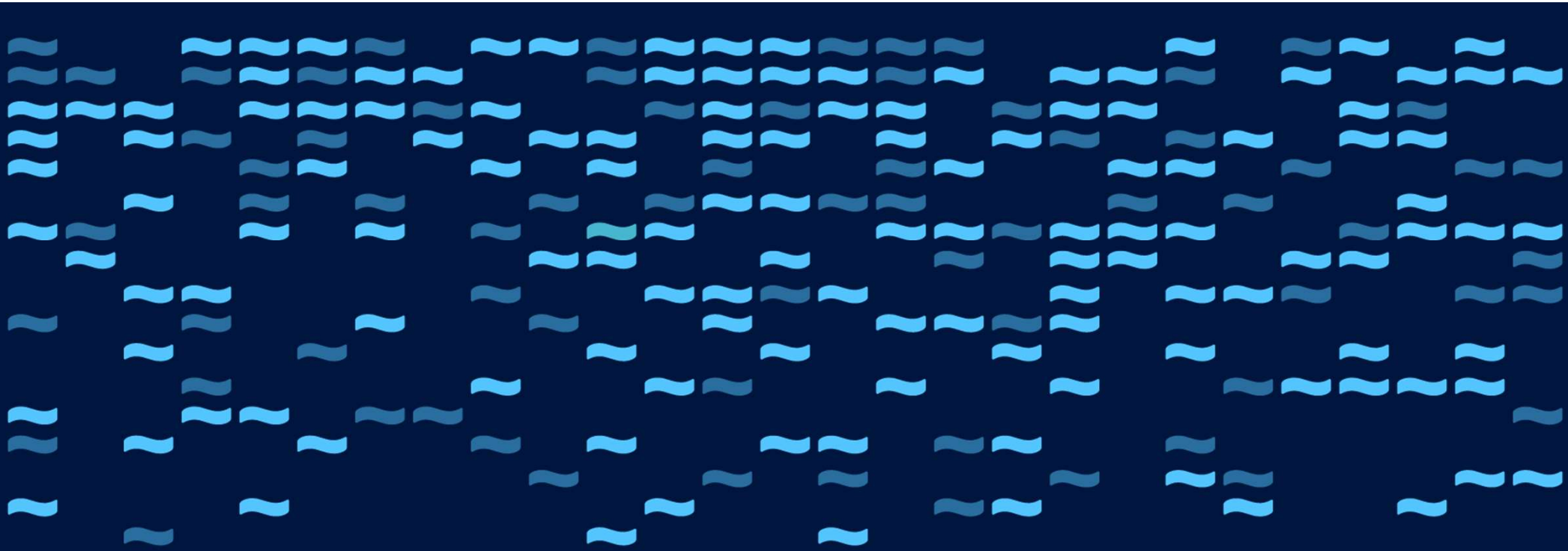


KYNISKA
ADVOCACY

Mhairi Maclennan, Co-Founder & CEO

@kyniskaadvocacy

mhairi.maclennan@kyniskaadvocacy.com



Coffee Break


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IN SPORT CONFERENCE 2026
“PROTECTING OUR ATHLETES”
Being a Safeguarding Lead
Dr Kate Hills
Swim Ireland
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Being a Safeguarding Lead

As an NGB/Federation consider:

~Safeguarding Lead should be employed

~Must have a job description

~Identify essential criteria required

~Not expected to hold other roles

~Decide level of operation – club, region, national

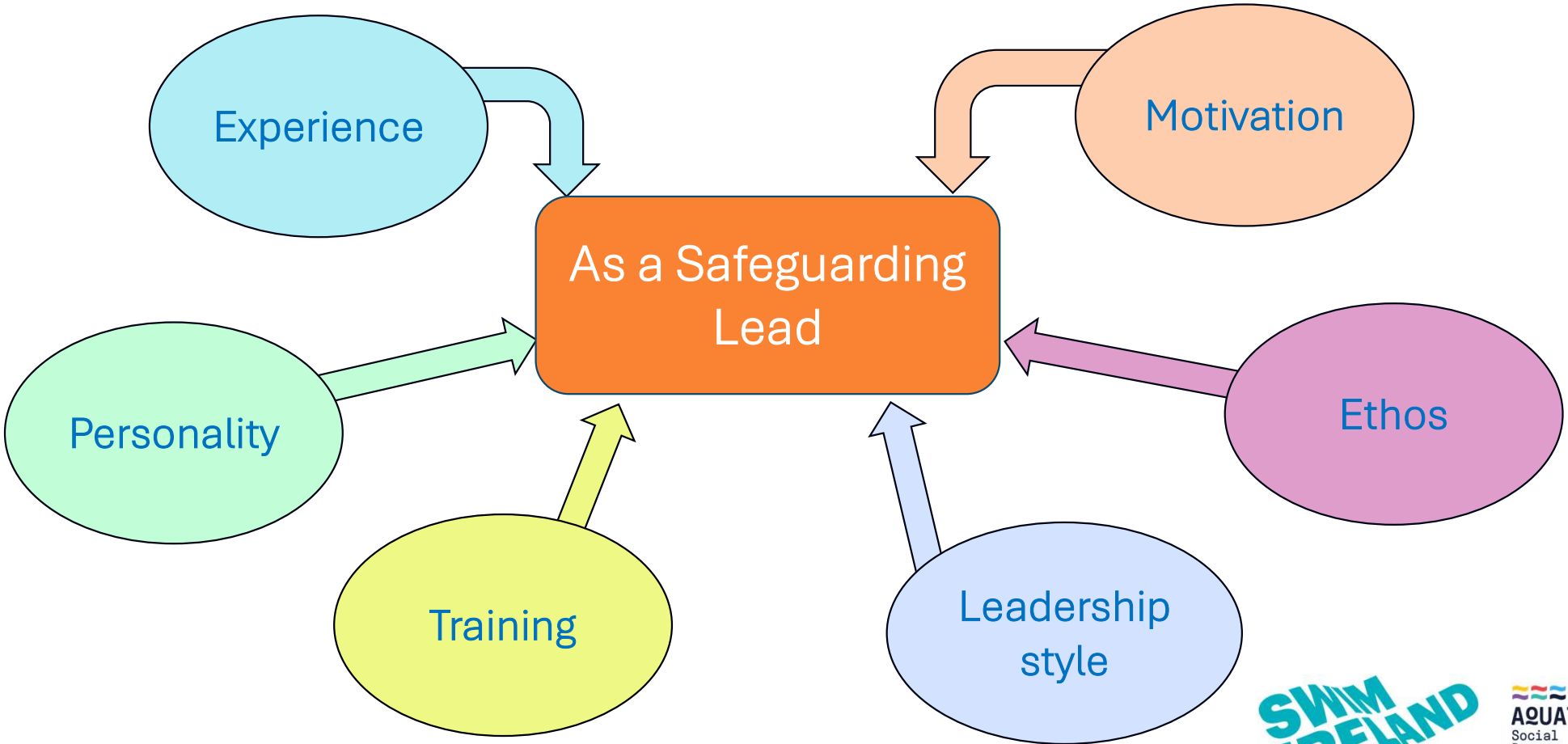
~Additional staff required – admin/specialised e.g. case management

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What you bring with you …

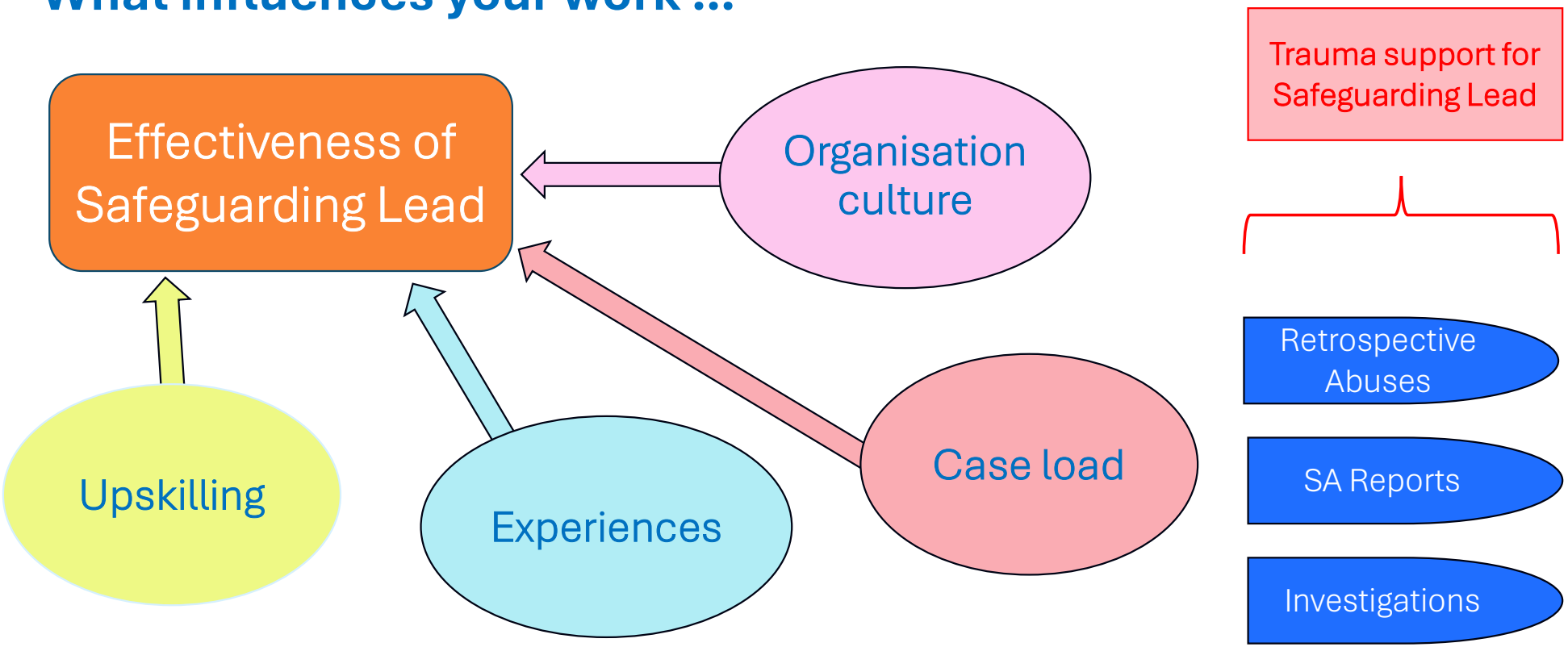


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What influences your work …



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Reporting models

- Legislation – understand who it applies to:
  - Child – mandatory requirement
  - Adult – definition of vulnerable person; element of choice
- Policy – does your policy deal with potential requirements
  - Beyond reasonable doubt?
  - Balance of probability?
- External v Internal investigations
  - Protocols
  - Who carries these out

EUROPEAN AQUATICS

Final thoughts

~Listen and focus on those harmed

~Consider effect of harmful behaviour on others

SHOW INTEGRITY – what is the right thing to do?

Well meaning is not good enough; safeguarding must be

CONSTANT

CONSISTENT

CONSIDERATE

Dr Kate Hills, Head of Safeguarding

SWIM IRELAND

AQUATICS Social Responsibility

Contact details:
katehills@swimireland.ie

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This is your element

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"PROTECTING OUR ATHLETES"
SAFE HARBOUR PROJECT
Strengthening response mechanisms for
safeguarding in European sports
Carlotta Giussani, Director of the EOC EU Office
SPÓRT ÉIREANN
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SAFE HARBOUR: Overview



AIM.

To boost the capacity of Federations and European NOCs to respond to safeguarding concerns and violations.

CONSORTIUM.

Coordinated by the EOC EU Office, supported by IOC.

- 33 European NOCs
- 2 International Federations
- 2 experts (Asser Institute & Thomas More)

FROM A PROJECT TO A MOVEMENT

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SAFE HARBOUR Strengthening Response Mechanisms for Safeguarding in European Sports

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SAFE HARBOUR: Overview

30 MONTHS

From January 2025 to June 2027

3 PHASES

STATE OF PLAY

Assess the current state of safeguarding in sports

EUROPEAN FRAMEWORK

Define a European Response framework along with a position paper and the ENSS

NATIONAL FRAMEWORK

Launch of national strategies and complementary actions

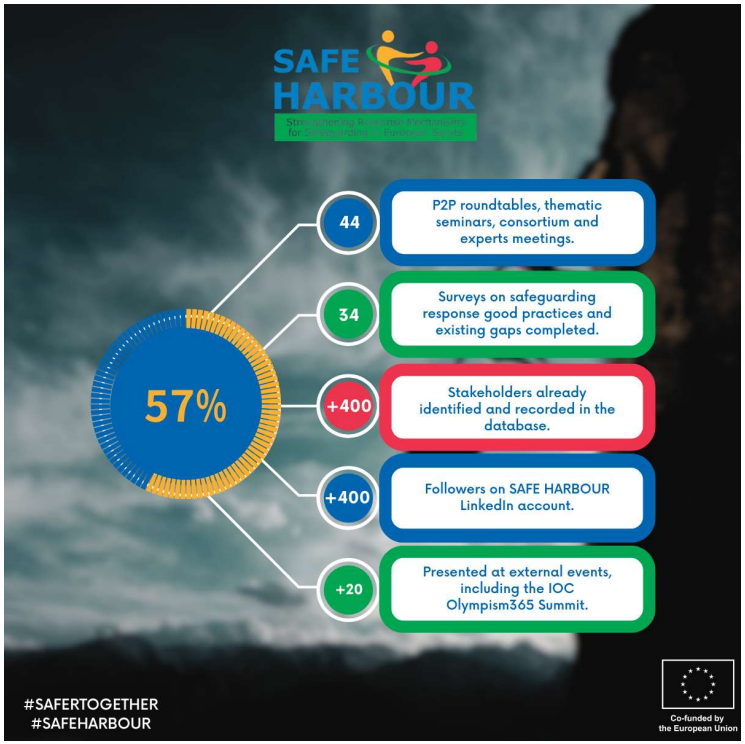
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SAFE HARBOUR
Strengthening Response Mechanisms for Safeguarding in European Sports

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SAFE HARBOUR: State of Play



- **January 2025:** Launch of the Project
- **December 2025:** GAP Report
- **March 2026:** Stakeholders Database
- **June 2026:** Classification of Safeguarding Concerns

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SAFE HARBOUR Strengthening Response Mechanisms for Safeguarding in European Sports

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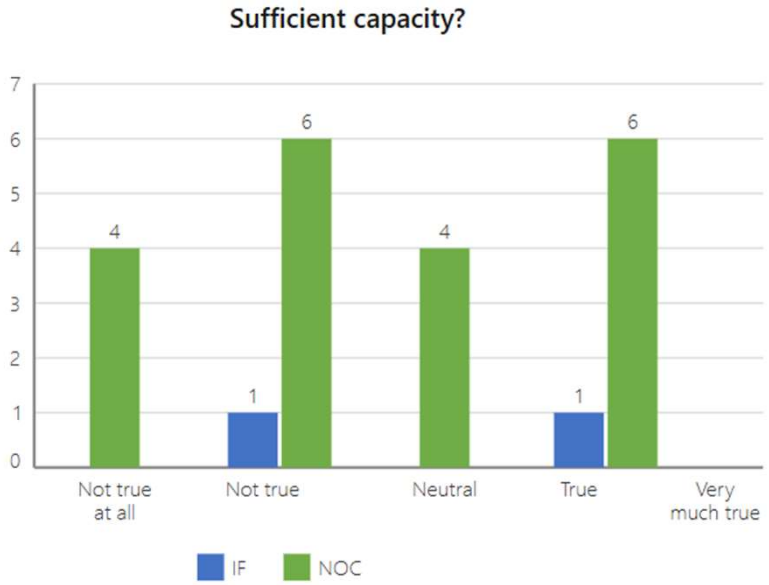
SAFE HARBOUR: The GAP Report

AIM.

Comprehensive analysis of available safeguarding structures, procedures and services across 20 European NOCs and 2 IFs when it comes to responding to safeguarding concerns

FINDINGS.

- Safeguarding systems across European NOCs and Ifs are developing but remain uneven and incomplete
- Gaps in capacity, policy maturity, reporting, referral, and case triage may hamper or delay recognition of and response to harm



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SAFE HARBOUR
Strengthening Response Mechanisms for Safeguarding in European Sports

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SAFE HARBOUR: The Stakeholders Database

AIM.

Online interactive tool mapping sport and non-sport stakeholders and layers of responsibility on matters of safeguarding in NOCs and IFs countries.



DATABASE.

- 20+ countries covered
- 250+ stakeholders identified and referenced
- Sport stakeholders: NOC, national federations, international sport organisations.
- Non-sport stakeholders: public authority, legal and law enforcement, child protection service, NGO, health, education, research, international organisations.

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Strengthening Response Mechanisms for Safeguarding in European Sports

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SAFE HARBOUR: Next Steps

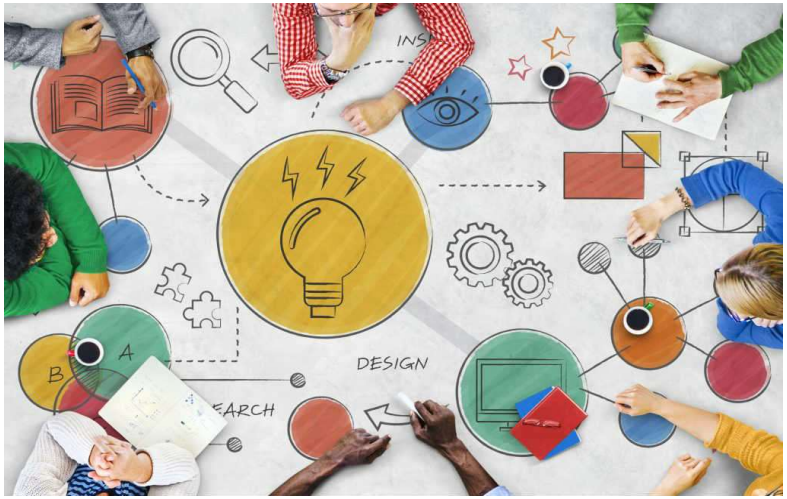
June 2026:
Workshop on National Strategies

November 2026:
Train-the-Trainer for NOC leadership & NFs

December 2026:
European Response Framework
National Strategies &
Multiplier Events

April 2027:
Position Paper

June 2027:
Final Conference
& official launch
ENSS



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SAFE HARBOUR: From a project to a movement

IOC SAFE SPORT REGIONAL HUB INITIATIVE.

- Initiative approved in 2023 (on hold)
- 3 continents: Pacific, Africa & Europe
- 3 phases:
  - Planning & Design
  - Proof of Concept
  - Formalisation & Scaling

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SAFE HARBOUR
Strengthening Response Mechanisms for Safeguarding in European Sports

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THANK YOU ALL FOR THE ATTENTION AND...

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media channels

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SAFE HARBOUR Newsletter

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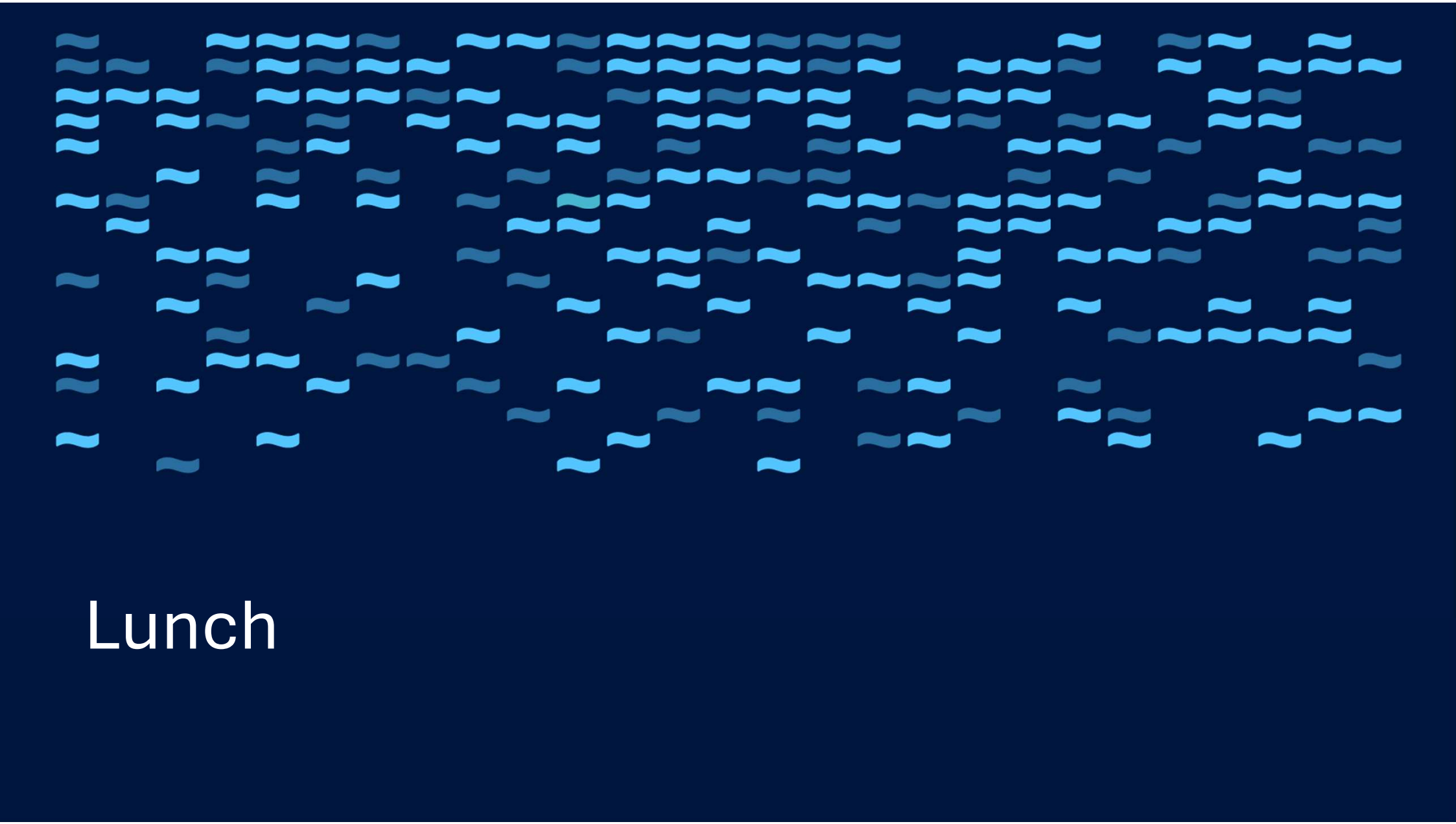
Join as an observer in the project!

#STAYTUNED
#SAFEHARBOUR #SAFERTOGETHER

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Strengthening Response Mechanisms for Safeguarding in European Sports

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Lunch

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Afternoon Session

Input from Athletes
Tom Fannon, Emma Garcia, Gráinne Walsh, Greta Streimikyte

Creating a Safe Space at Events
Jeanne Lehericey

Redefining Safe Sport for the Next Generation
Emanuel Macedo de Medeiros

Panel Discussion
All Speakers

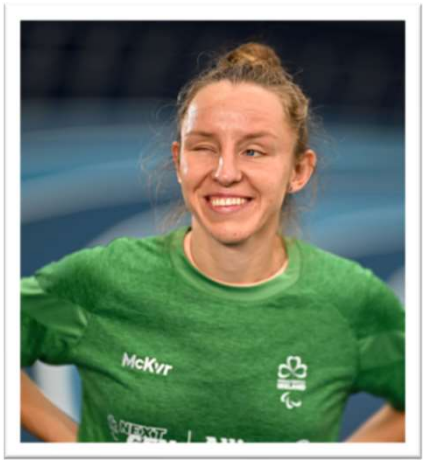
Closing Remarks
Antonio Silva

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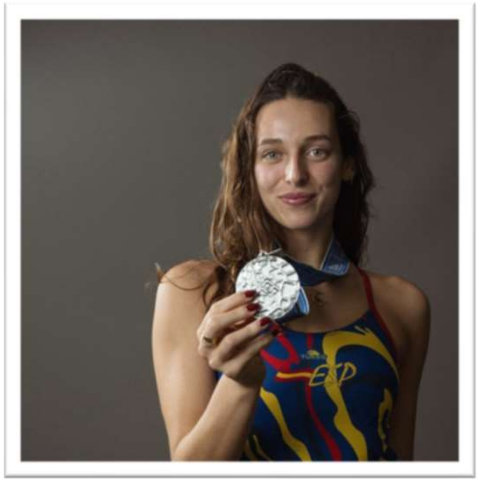
Gráinne Walsh



Greta Streimikyte



Tom Fannon



Emma Garcia


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ATHLETE WELFARE
IN SPORT CONFERENCE 2026
“PROTECTING OUR ATHLETES”
Safe spaces in sport: Athlete welfare and protection at events
The example of the European Aquatics Championships Paris 2026
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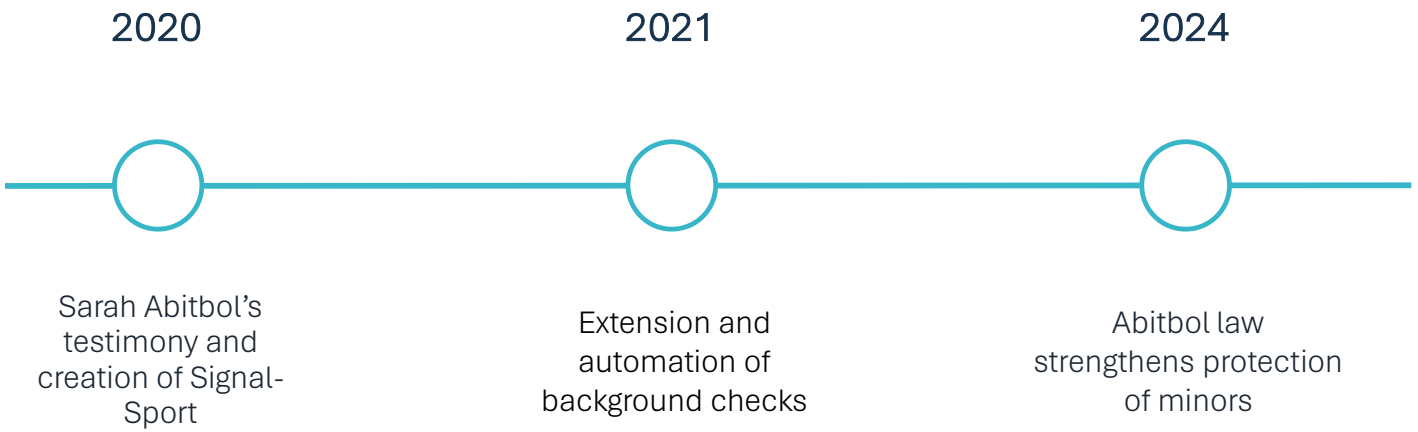
INTRODUCTION

From breaking the silence to systems of protection

Safe spaces in sport : Athletes welfare and protection at events

08 May 2026

Introduction



Athlete welfare is no longer a side issue. It is a core responsibility of event delivery.

Introduction

A dedicated department

Sustainability, accessibility and legacy embedded from the outset.

Existing frameworks

Inspired by others, adapted to EAC Paris 2026.

A legacy of our own

A practical contribution for host cities, the federation and future events.

Embedding athlete welfare into the planning and delivery of the Championships.

PART I

Building the framework for a safe event environment

Safe spaces in sport : Athletes welfare and protection at events

8 May 2026

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From ambition to operational framework

1. **Assess the context**
   Event scale, resources, constraints and existing experience.
2. **Identify the risks**
3. **Define responsibilities**
   EA, FFN, delegations, workforce and external partners.
4. **Build on existing frameworks**
   EA Integrity Code, French law and FFN procedures.
5. **Design for legacy**
   Proportionate measures that can be passed on to future organisers.

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PART II

Implementing athlete welfare and protection at EAC Paris 2026

Safe spaces in sport : Athletes welfare and protection at events

8 May 2026

Prior to the event

1 Inform delegations

- EA Integrity Code, French law and reporting process.

2 Prepare the workforce

- Expected conduct, awareness and response guidance.

3 Strengthen accreditation

- Federation due diligence before accreditations are issued.

During the event

We Care Team

Trained and identifiable

Online reporting

Centralised and traceable reporting

Safe response capacity

confidential • coordinated

Safe area

A quiet space to recover

Partner associations

Victim support and online protection

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During the event

Report received (obline form)
Victim : athlete

Is the alleged perpetrator bound by the EA Integrity code ?

YES

Both the athlete and the alleged perpetrator fall under the EA Integrity Code.

Case managed by EA Integrity Officer.

FFN support if needed :

- Liaison with the judicial authorities
- Support of the victim

At every stage, the priority is athlete protection, welfare and appropriate support.

NO

The alleged perpetrator fall outside the scope of EA Integrity Case.

The case is co-led.

French Swimming Federation

- Procedure according to the status and nature of the facts
- Liaison with the judicial authorities

European Aquatics :

- May intervene on accreditation, where relevant

EA and the FFN work together to support the athlete where needed

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Conclusion

The EAC Paris 2026 model should become a foundation for future events.

What success looks like

- Athletes know how to seek help.
- Workforce members know how to respond.
- Cases are routed quickly and safely.
- Lessons are passed to the next organiser.

Next steps

Safeguarding officer network

Identify one contact within each delegation.

Awareness modules

Link accreditation to welfare training.

Do better, go further, be safer — together.

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Emanuel Macedo de Medeiros
SIGA Global CEO, Executive Chairman, SIGA EUROPE

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SPORT INTEGRITY
GLOBAL ALLIANCE

Redefining Safe Sport for the Next Generation

SIGA Universal Standards on Youth Development & Child Protection in Sport

8 May 2026, **Dublin**

Why We Are Here

Sport must be safe, inclusive, and empowering

Every child deserves protection and dignity

Welfare is not optional—it is fundamental



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Good Intentions Are Not Enough

Safeguarding failures persist globally

Fragmented systems

Inconsistent standards

Lack of accountability

The result: preventable harm



Built on Concrete Experience

30+ years at the forefront of Sport

Leadership across clubs, leagues, and global bodies

Policy and governance at European & international level

Parent

Key message:

Without systems, we leave protection to chance.

Not One Voice — A Collective Intelligence

International task force

Multi-sport expertise

Legal, safeguarding, governance specialists

Athlete and institutional input

→ **Diversity = Credibility + Relevance**

A Global Framework for Safe Sport

Practical

Measurable

Globally applicable

Purpose:

Ensure every child in sport is:



Protected



Respected



Able to thrive


RECRUITMENT OF YOUNG ATHLETES
1
2
SAFE TRAINING ENVIRONMENTS
3
EDUCATION
4
SAFEGUARDING
5
PROTECTION & REPORTING MECHANISMS IMPROVEMENT
6
GOVERNANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY
7
MONITORING & CONTINUOUS
A HOLISTIC SYSTEM — END-TO-END PROTECTION
THE STANDARDS COVER THE FULL ATHLETE JOURNEY:
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SIRVS
GAP ANALYSIS
SIGA INDEPENDENT RATING AND VERIFICATION SYSTEM
→ NOT ISOLATED ACTIONS — A COMPLETE SYSTEM

From Reactive to Preventive

International task force

Multi-sport expertise

Legal, safeguarding, governance specialists

Athlete and institutional input

From reaction → to prevention



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Preventing Serious Harm

If properly implemented, the standards help prevent:



Abuse (physical, emotional, sexual)



Discrimination



Exploitation



Trafficking and smuggling of minors

This is not theoretical — it is happening.

What Strong Systems Require

Safe and adequate infrastructure

Mental & physical health support

Integrity checks (coaches, staff, officials)

Dual career

Licensing and Certification Systems for Training Clubs and Youth Development Programmes Cross-sector coordination (public + private)

→ **Safeguarding is a system—not a policy**



Beyond Compliance — Leadership

Build trust with athletes & families

Strengthen reputation

Attract partners & investment

Future-proof your organization

Safe sport = smart sport

Verification: From Words to Proof

SIRVS — Independent Assurance

Objective assessment

Transparency

Credibility

Continuous improvement

SIRVS — Accreditation

Key question answered:

"Can you prove it?"

The Responsibility Is Ours

Review the Standards

Benchmark your organisation

Commit to implementation

Engage with SIRVS

Show you are Fit for Purpose / Enhance your Credibility



→ Move from intention to action

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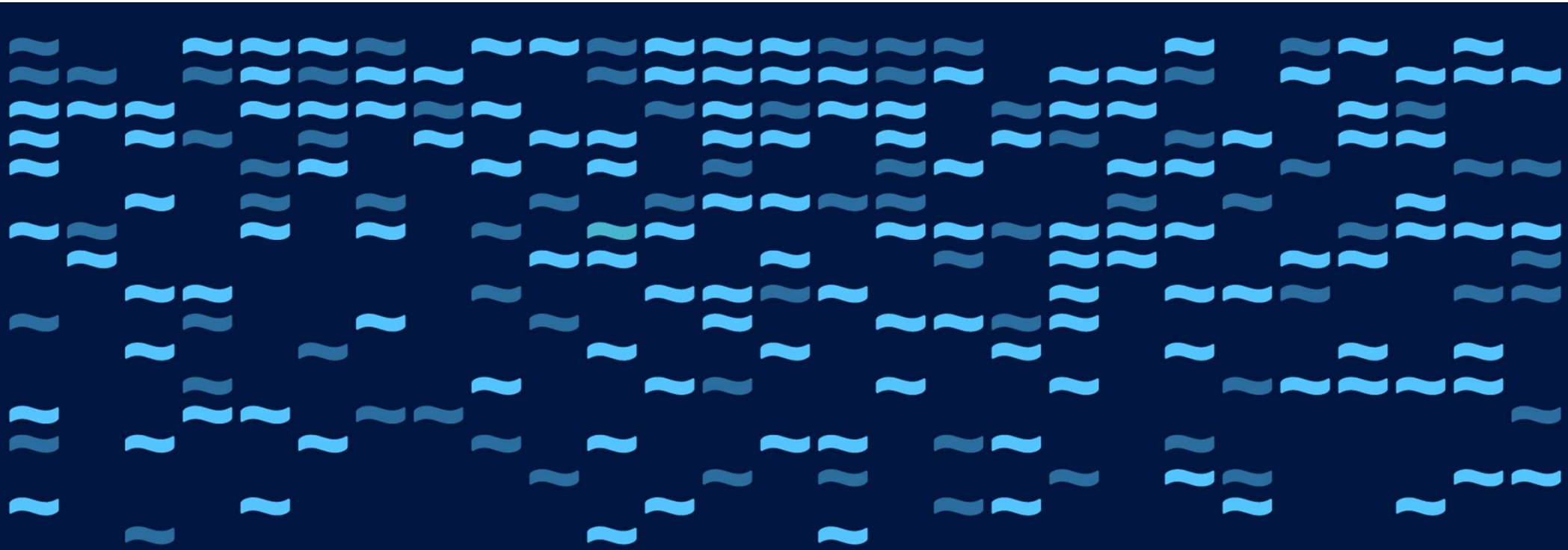
Final Message



If we truly believe that Sport has the power to **shape lives** —

then **we must ensure** it never has the power to harm them.

Panel Discussion



Closing Remarks

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