



Safeguarding in sport

Implications for sports informed by evidence from hockey

KEY FINDINGS

ADULT SAFEGUARDING CAPABILITIES



Awareness

High recognition of safeguarding policies, such as a Code of Conduct



Confidence

Strong in mandatory reporting; lower confidence in discussing sensitive topics with youth



Attitudes

Strong rejection of harmful myths; lower confidence in young people's safeguarding knowledge



Knowledge

Good understanding of community impacts of abuse; lower awareness of risks like staff turnover

YOUNG ATHLETES' PERCEPTIONS



Trust

Most young people have at least one adult at Hockey they can trust



Communication

Few report regular discussions about worries or safety with adults



Help seeking

Prefer family or friends over organisational adults when seeking help

MOVING FORWARD

THE VALUE OF EVALUATION IN SAFEGUARDING

Why evaluate?

To measure safeguarding impact, spot gaps, and track progress

Safeguarding Capabilities Survey

Assesses adult awareness, confidence, attitudes, and knowledge

Children's Safety Survey

Captures perceptions of safety and barriers to help-seeking, and confidence in adults

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SPORTS ORGANISATIONS



Integrate evaluation tools into safeguarding frameworks



Enhance adult communication training on sensitive safeguarding topics



Empower youth participation in policy and practice development



Clarify and promote disclosure pathways to guide help seeking



Strengthen physical environment assessments for safety risks

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References: Russell, D., & Higgins, D. (2020). [Safeguarding capabilities in preventing child sexual abuse: exploratory factor analysis of a scale measuring safeguarding capabilities in youth-serving organizations workers](#). *Child Maltreatment*, 25(2), 233-242; Moore, T., McArthur., M., Heerde, J., Roche, S., & O'Leary, P. (2016). [Our safety counts: Children and young people's perceptions of safety and institutional responses to their safety concerns](#). Melbourne: Institute of Child Protection Studies, Australian Catholic University.