



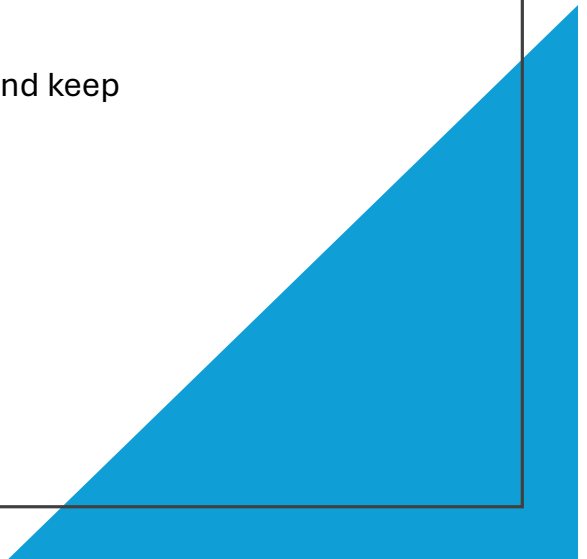
Safeguarding training 2025

Izabella Kurucz

24, March, 2025

WHY?

- World Athletics requirement
- NACAC requirement
- Main aim:
 - To proactively protect EVERYONE in Track&Field from abuse, harassment and keep Track&Field clubs, meets, and practices a safe place



Scope

All persons associated with the VI Track & Field Federation

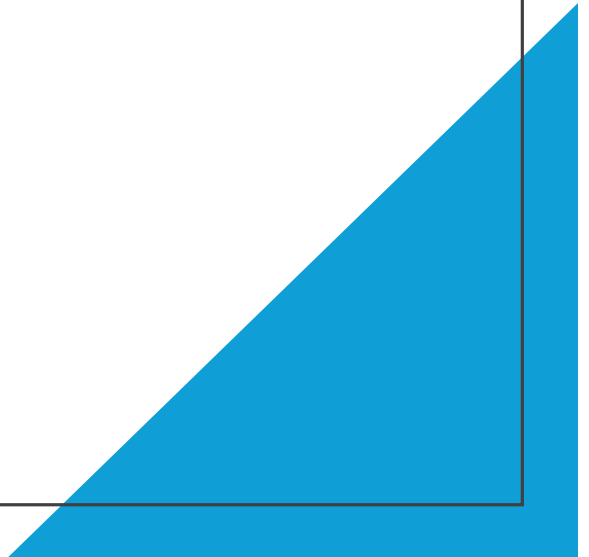
- Athletes
- Coaches
- Other officials
- Parents

Principles

Rights:

- To be treated fairly
- To participate in T&F activities
- To be heard
- To ask for help

MUTUAL RESPONSIBILITY



Forms

Types of harassment and abuse



**Physical
abuse**



**Sexual
abuse**



**Financial
abuse**



**Emotional/
Psychological
abuse**

How can it be reported?

- Form to be filled in
- To be sent to **vitff.safeguarding@gmail.com**
- When? – as soon as happens/get aware of it
- MISUSE-legal consequence

ANYONE CAN REPORT AN ISSUE directly to the above

e-mail address; In the case of children, a parent needs to co-sign!

VITFF

The Virgin Islands Track & Field Federation...SINCE 1963
231 Mount Pelier, Frederiksted, St. Croix, VI 00840 | vitff.p@gmail.com | 340-277-1123
SAFEGUARDING ISSUE REPORTING FORM

Name of the reporter(and role):	
Name of the Victim:	
Date of Birth of the Victim:	
Gender and Role of the Victim:	
Name of the Suspect:	
Gender and Role of the Suspect:	
Date of incident:	
Detailed report of the case:	
Medical treatment was done?	Yes No
Name of potential witness/es:	
Date of report:	

I hereby certify that the information and data provided above are accurate and true to the best of my knowledge. I acknowledge that false statements may have legal consequences.

Date of report:	
Signature of reporter:	

Investigation

- VITFF Safeguarding Committee

- Independent Team

- Izabella Kurucz

- Ayanna McKay

- Daniel DaCosta

No.	Process step	Responsible	Informed	Outcome	Timing
1.	Register the report	Head of Committee	Members of Committee, VITFF Executive Committee		Day 1
2.	Inform World Athletics- if necessary	Head of Committee			Day 1
3.	Call a meeting to share the details of the case	Head of Committee	Members of Committee	Interview orders and timelines are set up	Day 2
4.	Interview of the victim	Head of Committee	Interviewed persons	Written and signed interview	Day 2-8
5.	Interview of the suspect	Head of Committee		Written and signed interview	Day 2-8
6.	Further interviews, if needed	Head of Committee		Written and signed interview	Day 9-14
7.	Final meeting	Head of Committee		Summarized outcome of investigations and proposal of further steps/decisions;	Day 15-21
8.	Report to Executive Committee	Head of Committee	Executive Committee	Case Closed; further steps agreed	Day 22-28
9.	Inform World Athletics- if necessary/ Inform Police-if necessary	Head of Committee	World Athletics and/or Police	All necessary reporting completed	Day 22-28
10.	Learnings built in Safeguarding Policy	VITFF President	All member Clubs	All clubs are trained and modified Policy	Day 30-Day 60

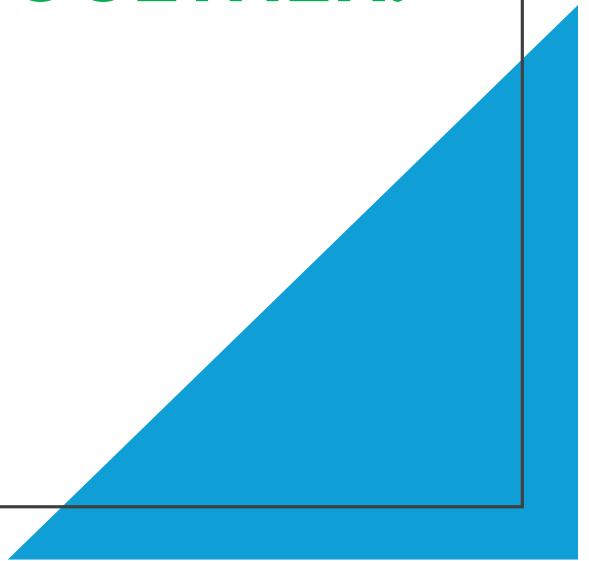
What is your role as an official?

- Implement the VITFF Safeguarding Policy in your organization
- Train all your coaches and officials
- Explain to your athletes and parents the basics
- MAKE THE REPORT FORM available for everyone
- Report any incident, independently from the person of the victim
- After investigation share the outcome anonymously with all your officials and athletes

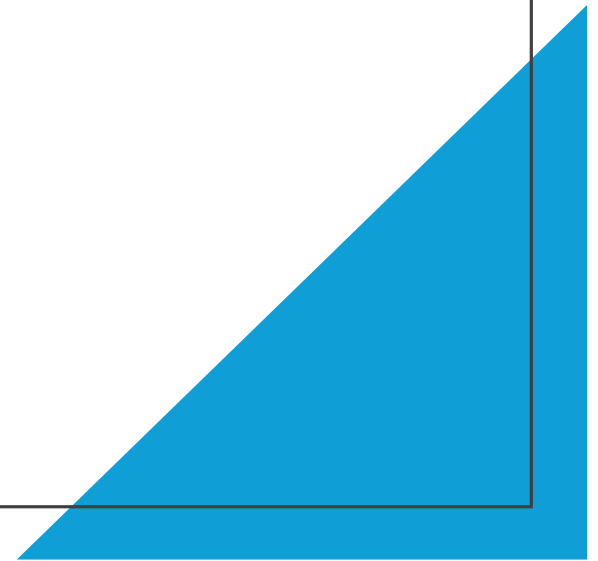


Coaches, officials, and parents to be role models!

Keep VI Track&Field a safe place TOGETHER!

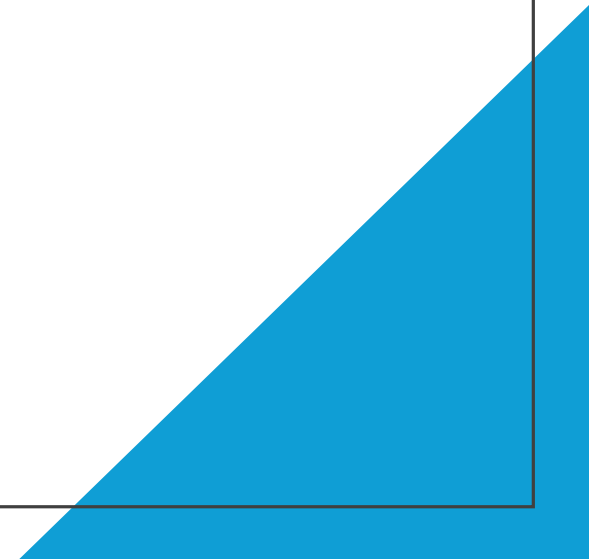


BACK-UP SLIDES



PHYSICAL ABUSE

- Excessive Training
 - Forcing athletes to train beyond safe physical limits, leading to injury.
- Physical Punishment
 - Coaches administering physical punishment as a form of discipline.
- Assault
 - Instances where athletes are physically harmed by coaches or teammates.



PHYSICAL ABUSE -EXAMPLES

Country: USA

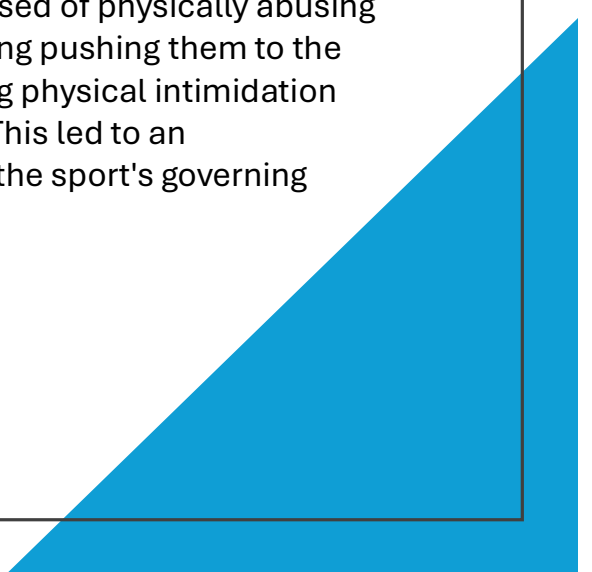
Sport: American Football

Case: In 2014, allegations surfaced against a coach in the NFL for physically abusing players during practice sessions. Reports indicated that players were subjected to aggressive physical contact and punishment as part of their training.

Country: Australia

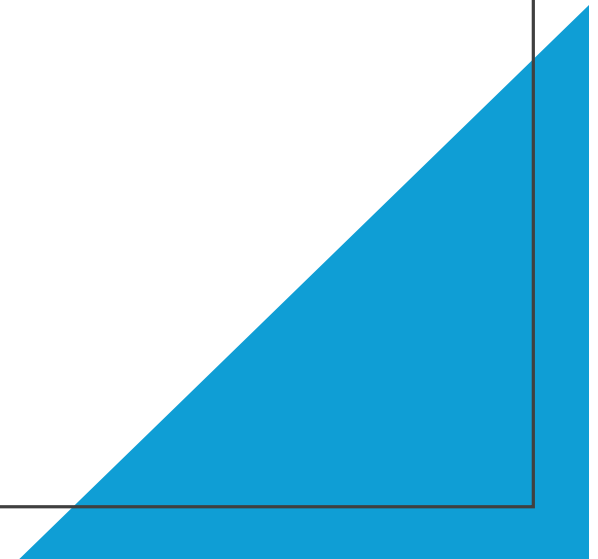
Sport: Swimming

Case: In 2018, a prominent swimming coach was accused of physically abusing athletes, including pushing them to the ground and using physical intimidation during training. This led to an investigation by the sport's governing body.



PSYCHOLOGICAL ABUSE

- Manipulation
 - Coaches or officials using manipulation to control athletes' decisions or emotions.
- Gaslighting
 - Dismissing athletes' feelings or experiences to make them doubt their reality.
- Isolation
 - Coaches or teams isolating players from friends and family to exert control.



PSYCHOLOGICAL ABUSE - EXAMPLES

Country: UK

Sport: Gymnastics

Case: In 2020, several former gymnasts came forward with allegations of psychological abuse within British Gymnastics. They reported experiences of manipulation, intimidation, and emotional distress caused by coaches. Athletes described being subjected to extreme pressure to perform, which included gaslighting tactics that made them doubt their own feelings and experiences. The environment created by some coaches was reported to be toxic, leading to mental health issues such as anxiety and depression among athletes. This scandal prompted investigations and discussions about the need for reforms in athlete welfare and safeguarding in sports.

Country: UK

Sport: Athletics

Case: Several athletes reported a culture of psychological abuse in British Athletics, where coaches would manipulate athletes' emotions, use gaslighting tactics, and create an environment of fear. This led to athletes experiencing anxiety and depression.

VERBAL ABUSE

- Derogatory Comments
 - Coaches or teammates use insults or belittling language to criticize performance.
- Threats
 - Coaches threaten athletes with consequences if they don't perform well.
- Public Humiliation
 - Athletes being called out or shamed in front of others for mistakes.

VERBAL ABUSE - EXAMPLES

Country: USA

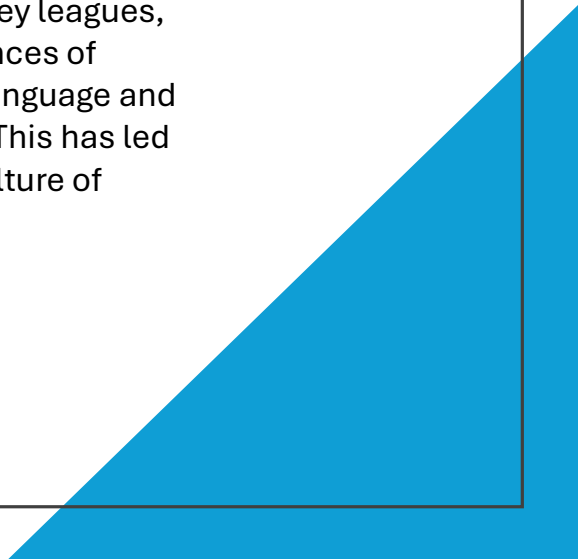
Sport: Gymnastics

Case: In the USA Gymnastics scandal, several gymnasts reported being subjected to verbal abuse by coaches, including harsh criticism and humiliation during training sessions. This created a toxic environment that contributed to athletes' mental health struggles.

Country: Canada

Sport: Hockey

Case: In various junior hockey leagues, players have reported instances of coaches using derogatory language and insults to motivate players. This has led to discussions about the culture of verbal abuse in the sport.



SEXUAL ABUSE

- Sexual Assault
 - Any unwanted sexual contact or behavior, including rape.
- Fondling
 - Unwanted touching of a sexual nature.
- Coercion
 - Forcing someone to engage in sexual acts through threats or intimidation.
- Exploitation
 - Taking advantage of someone in a vulnerable position for sexual purposes.
- Child Sexual Abuse
 - Inappropriate sexual behavior with minors, including grooming and exploitation.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

- Verbal Harassment
 - Inappropriate comments, jokes, or remarks about someone's body or sexual orientation.
- Non-Verbal Harassment:
 - Leering, inappropriate gestures, or displaying sexual images.
- Quid Pro Quo:
 - Offering benefits (like promotions or playing time) in exchange for sexual favors.
- Hostile Environment:
 - Creating an intimidating or abusive environment through pervasive sexual comments or behavior.
- Stalking:
 - Repeated unwanted attention or contact that causes fear or discomfort.

SEXUAL ABUSE/HARASSMENT - EXAMPLES

Country: UK

Sport: Football

Case: In 2021, Paul Reilly, a former youth football coach in the UK, was found guilty of sexually abusing young players over a period of several years. Reilly used his position of authority to manipulate and exploit vulnerable young athletes, engaging in inappropriate sexual behavior and making unwanted sexual advances. Victims reported that the abuse often occurred during training sessions or in private settings, where Reilly would take advantage of the trust placed in him by both the players and their families. The case came to light after several former players bravely came forward to share their experiences, leading to an investigation by law enforcement. Reilly was sentenced to a lengthy prison term, and the case highlighted the urgent need for better safeguarding measures and oversight in youth sports programs. It emphasized the importance of creating a safe environment for young athletes and ensuring that they can report any misconduct without fear of retribution.

Country: USA

Sport: Gymnastics

Case: Larry Nassar, a former USA Gymnastics team doctor, was convicted of sexually abusing hundreds of young athletes over several decades. Many of his victims were minors at the time, and he used his position of trust to manipulate and assault them under the guise of medical treatment. The case brought widespread attention to issues of sexual abuse in sports and prompted significant changes in how organizations handle allegations and protect athletes.

LINKS

- Mireille to add after uploading to the VITFF website:
 - Training material
 - Recording
 - Safeguarding Policy
 - Reporting Form
 - Study: <https://dialnet.unirioja.es/download/articulo/9074000.pdf>