



# **Child Maltreatment in Sports**

*A Bibliography*

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Global Response to Child Abuse**

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## Scope

This bibliography covers a variety of issues related to child maltreatment in sports including reporting, disclosure, incidence rate, prevention, and policy change.

## Organization

Publications include articles, book chapters, reports, and research briefs and are listed in date descending order. Links are provided to full text publications when possible. However, this collection may not be complete. More information can be obtained in the Child Abuse Library Online.

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# Child Maltreatment in Sports

## A Bibliography

Schwab, L., Röthlin, P., Antonini Philippe, R., & Horvath, S. (2026). [Exploring coaches' responses to interpersonal violence in sport: Recognition, severity perception, and likelihood of reporting](#). *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 0(0). DOI:10.1177/08862605251408112

Coaches play a critical role in safeguarding athletes from interpersonal violence (IV), yet their ability to recognize, evaluate, and address such incidents remains understudied. This study explored coaches' accuracy in recognizing violent and ambiguous scenarios, their perception of severity, and their likelihood of reporting these incidents, as well as the psychological factors influencing coaches' responses. A sample of 145 performance sport coaches (21% female,  $M_{\text{age}} = 48.97$ ,  $SD = 11.02$ ) completed an online survey featuring sport-related vignettes and psychometric scales, namely the Perceived Instrumental Effects of Violence in Sport (PIEVS) scale, the Collective Moral Attitudes in Sport (KMES) scale and the Perceived Stress Scale (PSS). Findings revealed that coaches failed to recognize nearly 30% of violent scenarios, with notable difficulties in recognizing neglect, and correctly classified only 45% of ambiguous cases. Misclassified violent scenarios received lower ratings for both severity and likelihood of reporting, with effect sizes differing by type of violence. For ambiguous scenarios, misclassification tended to increase severity and reporting for psychological and neglect cases but showed a robust effect only for the sexual vignette, highlighting that ambiguity is not interpreted uniformly. Small but significant correlations emerged between PIEVS scores and recognition accuracy in violent scenarios ( $\rho = -.177$ ,  $p = .033$ ), as well as severity ratings for ambiguous scenarios ( $\rho = -.258$ ,  $p = .007$ ). KMES scores showed a small positive correlation with severity ratings in violent scenarios ( $\rho = .203$ ,  $p = .014$ ). Overall, these results highlight the challenges coaches face in recognizing and addressing IV in sport and point to a limited understanding of the factors that shape their responses. There is a clear need for targeted, context-sensitive educational interventions to strengthen coaches'

safeguarding practices, with particular attention to less visible forms of violence such as neglect.

Dodd, K., Salmon, P. M., Solomon, C., & McLean, S. (2025). Applying a systems thinking lens to child sexual abuse in sport: An analysis of investigative report findings and recommendations. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 165, 107488.  
DOI:10.1016/j.chiabu.2025.107488

Sporting organisations and governing bodies are facing increased pressure to prevent child sexual abuse (CSA) in sport. This has led to an increase in investigative reports into CSA that include recommendations on how sporting organisations could improve child safeguarding. Current peer reviewed literature on the prevention of CSA in sport, indicates that the majority of research has been on interventions at the levels of the victim and perpetrator, rather than on broader components of the sports system. However, it is not clear whether this is the case in investigative reports. The aim of this study was to analyse investigative reports into CSA in five Australian sports (Swimming, Cricket, Gymnastics, Football, and Tennis), to evaluate the extent to which a systems thinking approach was adopted to understand the broader systemic factors enabling CSA in sport. Factors enabling CSA detailed in the reports, as well as their accompanying recommendations, were mapped to a systems thinking-based framework. The identified enabling factors and recommendations were then evaluated to determine the extent to which a whole of systems focus had been adopted in the investigative reports. In total, 30 enabling factors to CSA were identified, with the majority focused at the higher levels of the sports system (e.g., Governance, Policy, Reporting/Handling issues etc.). This contrasts with the peer reviewed literature. The findings indicate that the identified enabling factors to CSA align with a systems thinking approach, whereas the recommendations to safeguarding partially adhere to the tenets of system thinking.

Everley, S. (2025). [‘Where’ are the children in Safeguarding Policies of Sport? An analysis of national and international discourses in policy documentation](#). *Child Abuse Review*, 34(2), e70027. DOI:10.1002/car.70027

Within sport governance, there is increasing recognition of the significance of policy in protecting athlete welfare. However, there has been a distinct lack of research evaluating the messages conveyed in policy text. This research evaluated safeguarding policies of sport governing bodies nationally and internationally to understand how the concept of ‘safeguarding’ and child protection are constructed, the location of ‘children’ in text and the implications this has for practice. The study analysed safeguarding policies of Sports Receiving Funding from Sport England—National Governing Bodies (NGBs) and Global equivalents of these organisations—International/Global/World Governing Bodies. The study analysed data using Foucauldian discourse analysis to evaluate meanings conveyed through language as constitutive. Findings demonstrated World Governing Bodies attended to elite athlete equality with NGBs focusing on shared responsibilities of all involved in child sport environments. This is considered from perspectives of legal requirement and moral imperative. ‘Children’ in policy were identified as a group to be represented by adults with limited attention to their own agency. A shift towards acknowledgement of children’s rights with good practice requires attention to holistic development of the child. Policy included accessible reporting mechanisms although lacked guidance on managing power relations in reporting processes.

Kerr, G., Gurgis, J., Wensel, S., Willson, E., Schwender, J., & Porter, J. (2025). Is sport safe with safe sport? A critical examination. *Psychology of Sport and Exercise*, 81, 102964. DOI:10.1016/j.psychsport.2025.102964

In response to widespread concerns about interpersonal violence towards athletes in sport, the safe sport movement has emerged as a concerted effort to prevent harm and safeguard athlete well-being. Increased attention on safe sport is reflected in the growth of research and the development of education initiatives, policies, and complaint

mechanisms. Given the rapid progress in safe sport-related research and initiatives, as well as the complex and multifaceted nature of safe sport issues, a critical look at the field is timely. Using a constructivist lens, we suggest that safe sport is characterized by various ontological, epistemological, and axiological limitations, which encompass conceptual, methodological, and practical shortcomings. This analysis aims to stimulate scholarly discussion and enhance understanding of the complex challenges inherent in safe sport through a critical examination of its shortcomings.

Park, H., Sam, M. P., & Jackson, S. J. (2025). [Entrenched maltreatment in sport: Unintended consequences of the mix of practices and narratives](#). *International Review for the Sociology of Sport*, 60(1), 101-123. DOI:10.1177/10126902241264032

The concern for athlete maltreatment in elite sport emerged in response to a wide range of high-profile cases. While diverse theories and concepts have been used to explore the subject, there is a need for non-Western analyses that can attend to the cultures, practices and narratives of Asian states. Drawing on the case of South Korea's elite sport system, this paper scrutinises the mix of institutional practices and narratives that may variously *converge* to enable maltreatment or *diverge*, to prompt calls for systemic change. Grounded in 'new institutionalism' and a qualitative approach that incorporates document analysis and semi-structured interviews, this research examines maltreatment within a unique Korean Confucian hierarchical socio-cultural context. The results indicate that complementary practices and narratives enable maltreatment and facilitate the continuation of the system. Conversely, this study also investigated instances of divergence highlighting the impetus for change. However, there is some evidence to suggest that accommodating reforms, which remain essentially shaped by existing practices and narratives, often lead to resistance against substantial change. In sum, the combination of convergent and divergent practices and narratives, within the complex and unique cultural and structural context of Korea, signals that while policy

changes to address athlete maltreatment are emerging, barriers to fundamental, sustained change remain.

Shiau, A. Y. A., Schick, K. D., McWilliams, K., & Dewit-Williams, S. (2025). [Gender differences in sports-related child maltreatment: A systematic review](#). *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse, 0*(0). DOI:10.1177/15248380251372157

Sports-related child maltreatment (CM) has emerged as a global issue in the past few decades. Despite evidence pointing to gender differences in how children experience and report CM, this literature remains fragmented and limited to sexual abuse in sports. This systematic review identified and synthesized available evidence on the prevalence, perpetrators, outcomes, and disclosures of various sports-related CM subtypes to determine whether these experiences differ across genders. Systematic searches were conducted using three databases (i.e., PsycInfo, MedLine, Scopus) for studies published between the earliest date of each database to May 2024. A total of 509 unique articles were returned, from which 22 met the inclusion criteria. The included studies examined children or adults who participated in organized sports before age 18 and compared a quantitative measure of sports-related CM across genders. Findings revealed higher rates of sports-related neglect, psychological, and sexual abuse reported by girls, and higher rates of sports-related physical abuse reported by boys. Gender differences were also observed in the common perpetrators and disclosure recipients, with boys reporting more peer-perpetrated violence and disclosures made to coaches, and girls reporting more coach-perpetrated violence and disclosures made to parents. Regardless, severe outcomes of sports-related CM and concerns of underreporting were shared across genders. Future research is needed to establish consistent measurement tools and to explore gender differences in the perceptions and barriers to disclosing all forms of sports-related CM. The need to develop formal reporting structures in sports is also highlighted for policymakers and practitioners.

Stevens, A. L. (2025). [The history behind the enactment of Public Law 115-126 and whether Safesport has created a safe place for competitive athletes](#). *Scholar*, 28, 93.

The Summer Olympic Games unite the world in celebrating athletic excellence, yet behind the global spectacle lies a troubling reality: the pervasive issue of sexual abuse within competitive sports. The high-profile case of former USA Gymnastics doctor Larry Nassar, who sexually assaulted hundreds of athletes over decades, including Olympic champions Simone Biles and Gabby Douglas, exposed systemic failures in reporting and accountability. This comment analyzes the legal and institutional response to such abuse, focusing on the enactment of Public Law 115-126 in 2018. Designed to protect minors and amateur athletes, the law mandates timely reporting of sexual abuse to law enforcement and establishes safeguards within sports organizations. Through an examination of pre-existing procedures, the law's mandates, and its implementation across various state-level sports bodies, this comment evaluates the law's effectiveness and identifies its limitations—particularly in the investigatory process. Concluding that while Public Law 115-126 fulfills many of its intended purposes, this piece advocates for further reforms to ensure comprehensive protection and justice for all athlete victims.

Vertommen, T., Sølberg, N., Lang, M., & Kampen, J. K. (2025). Are some sports riskier than others? An investigation into child athlete experiences of interpersonal violence in relation to sport type and gender. *International Review for the Sociology of Sport*, 60(5), 921-945. DOI:10.1177/10126902241290576

Interpersonal violence in sport has serious consequences for athletes, sports organisations and society at large. Despite recent advances in safeguarding sport participants from interpersonal violence, empirical evidence regarding its prevalence and risk factors across different sports remains scarce. In this study, we investigated differences in the prevalence of interpersonal violence among a convenience sample of 9989 adults from six European countries who participated in organised sport before age 18. Utilising binary logistic regression analyses and CHAID regression tree analyses, we

examined variations in reported experiences of neglect, psychological, physical, non-contact sexual and contact sexual forms of interpersonal violence based on gender and three sport classifications: type of sport (individual vs. team), sports attire (non-revealing vs. body-fitting/revealing) and weight-sensitivity (less weight-sensitive vs. weight-sensitive sports). Men participating in team sports reported significantly higher levels of victimisation across all types of interpersonal violence. Women in sports with non-revealing attire and men in less weight-sensitive sports also reported higher prevalence rates. The study underscores the need for a nuanced understanding of interpersonal violence characteristics and dynamics across different sports. Insights into the factors influencing victimisation enable tailored prevention and response strategies to be developed to better address the needs of athletes and sport organisations.

Villa, C., Amendola, A., & Bright, M. (2025). Safeguarding elite child athletes at mega sporting events. *Child Abuse Review*, 34(4), e70057. DOI:10.1002/car.70057

Given the number of elite child athletes (under 18 years old) competing at mega sporting events (MSEs), it is important that safeguarding measures are implemented consistently to protect these young people from experiencing harm and abuse. To ensure effective safeguarding during MSE competition, safeguarding must be fully integrated into all phases of the event life cycle—from the vision or concept of the event through the event's legacy. In this narrative, we provide three models for the creation of a robust framework for safeguarding youth participating in MSEs and outline how these models work in practice to safeguard young athletes.

Adriaens, K., Verhelle, H., Peters, G. J. Y., Haerens, L., & Vertommen, T. (2024). [The Safe Sport Allies bystander training: Developing a multi-layered program for youth sport participants and their coaches to prevent harassment and abuse in local sport clubs](#). *Frontiers in Psychology, 15*, 1389280. DOI:10.3389/fpsyg.2024.1389280

Harassment and abuse represent a pervasive and critical problem in sport with far-reaching consequences. Survivors' testimonials underscore the profound and enduring impact of these experiences at individual, interpersonal, organizational and community level. Many of their stories reveal painful inaction from responsible adults in the sport organization, aggravating the harm. Other contributing factors to the harm inflicted include a culture of silence, lack of knowledge and understanding of what constitutes abuse, unawareness of reporting and supporting mechanisms, and fear of potential consequences. While effective bystander interventions have been developed outside the sport context, particularly targeting students in higher education, such initiatives have yet to be extensively adapted and assessed within the sport context. To address this gap, the Safe Sport Allies Erasmus+ collaborative partnership relied on the intervention mapping approach as a guiding framework to systematically develop a bystander training program (i.e., Safe Sport Allies) to train youth sport participants and youth sport coaches to act as effective bystanders. The current paper describes the comprehensive development process and provides an overview of implementation and evaluation possibilities. Throughout the paper, it is explained how each step of the Intervention Mapping approach shaped the Safe Sport Allies bystander training program. The program development, and the developed plans for implementation and evaluation are presented, shedding light on challenges encountered. The bystander training program developed in this paper and the implementation and evaluation plans can serve as an outline to build future interventions within this critical domain of safeguarding in sport.

Barker-Ruchti, N., & Varea, V. (2024). [Surviving child sexual abuse in women's artistic gymnastics: 'It's beautiful, because had I stayed in the past, I wouldn't have evolved as a person'](#). *International Review for the Sociology of Sport*, 59(5), 660-678. DOI:10.1177/10126902231218180

The USA Gymnastics sex abuse scandal raised global awareness about child sexual abuse (CSA) in women's artistic gymnastics. The ensuing media coverage also centrestaged victims' survivorship stories, a process that for many moved from dissociating, recognising and disclosing CSA to feeling comfort when connecting with survivors and accepting CSA as part of their life history. However, scholarship on what survivorship from CSA in sport entails, and importantly, what it means to athletes, is limited. In this article, we frame the survival of CSA using Arthur Frank's socio-narratological conceptualisation of people being able to process the devastating consequences of a life-threatening and/or a life-altering event, and present the survivorship stories of two former gymnasts, Maria and Lucia (pseudonyms). For these two women, survivorship was facilitated by hearing others' stories of sexual abuse, purposefully facing their CSA experiences and connecting with one another later in life to raise awareness about sexual abuse in sport. Thus, in addition to presenting Maria and Lucia's stories for the purpose of providing CSA victims with a survivorship narrative, we outline and reflect on the role hearing and telling stories have in CSA survivorship.

McMahon, J., & McGannon, K. R. (2024). [Implementing an organizational trauma-informed approach to Olympic sites: An urgent priority to protect elite athlete well-being during Olympic games participation](#). *American Behavioral Scientist*, 0(0). DOI:10.1177/00027642241261253

Abuse has been acknowledged as an adverse event which leads to trauma and long-term health effects in sport. Given the high rates of abuse occurring in elite sport contexts, many Olympic athletes will not only be subjected to abuse while residing and competing at the Olympic Games but may also experience trauma and its effects. In this article, we build on the calls for a trauma-informed approach in elite sport to outline a rationale for

the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to implement an organizational trauma-informed approach to Olympic sites. Such an approach is essential because trauma researchers outside, and inside sport contexts, have outlined that when organizations are not trauma aware, and practices are not trauma-informed, unintended “unsafe” responses may result. To contextualize our rationale for an organizational trauma-informed approach, we provide examples of Olympic athletes’ stories to demonstrate the abuse and trauma they experienced while competing at the Olympic Games. To build on the human right that all athletes participating in the Olympic Games have the right to do so safely and free from harm, we further outline what an organizational trauma-informed approach involves and why it is important to limit re-traumatization risk. We further reflect on how being trauma-informed extends a duty of care to better protect athletes, which should be a responsibility of the IOC.

Radziszewski, S., Parent, S., St-Pierre, E., Daignault, I. V., Hébert, M., & Baril, K. (2024). [A rapid review on complaint mechanisms for interpersonal violence: Integrating research-based recommendations from multiple sectors to inform sport settings](#). *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse*, 25(5), 3488–3503.  
DOI:10.1177/15248380241253822

Past studies have highlighted the lack of independent formal complaint mechanisms as one of the most significant barriers to reporting interpersonal violence (IV) in sport. Some countries have since implemented complaint mechanisms specific to sport settings. Evaluations of similar mechanisms in other sectors could inform the development and implementation of complaint mechanisms for IV in sport. This rapid review included studies inside and outside the sport context to document the characteristics of complaint mechanisms of IV, barriers or limitations related to such mechanisms, and recommendations resulting from their evaluation. Following the Cochrane Rapid Reviews Interim Guidance, six databases were searched for peer-reviewed references in English or French, published between 2012 and 2022, and pertaining to the evaluation of formal reporting mechanisms of IV. The 35 references covered mechanisms mainly targeting IV

in general (any type) or sexual violence specifically. Complaint mechanisms varied in scope and as a function of their setting, including work, university, military, and medical. We identified barriers and limitations concerning fear of consequences, lack of knowledge, lack of efficiency, lack of trust, and unsupportive culture. Finally, we documented 18 recommendations to improve complaint mechanisms of IV, spanning four categories: (a) organizational accountability, (b) awareness and accessibility, (c) adapted process, and (d) ongoing evaluation. This rapid review draws recommendations from various research disciplines and types of mechanisms to offer a comprehensive portrait of best practices. The findings show that numerous aspects of complaint mechanisms at multiple levels should be considered when developing and implementing complaint mechanisms of IV.

Dodd, K., Solomon, C., Naughton, M., Salmon, P. M., & McLean, S. (2023). What enables child sexual abuse in sport? A systematic review. *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse*, 25(2), 1599–1613. DOI:10.1177/15248380231190666

Sporting environments provide opportunities for perpetrators to commit child sexual abuse (CSA). While awareness of CSA in sport and preventative interventions are increasing, CSA in sport still occurs at alarming rates. A systematic review was conducted to identify and synthesize the extant literature on the enabling factors for CSA in sport. The 34 included articles were peer-reviewed and were primary sources; had full-text versions in English; included the individual, situational, environmental, or systemic antecedent factors and characteristics which enable CSA in organized sport (clubs, schools, universities, and representative teams); and focused on abuse in children (0–18 years old), and included retrospective incidents. The enabling factors from across the broader sports system were identified and mapped using a systems thinking-based approach, the Risk Management Framework (RMF) and the associated AcciMap method. The results indicated that enabling factors for CSA in sport were identified at multiple levels of the sporting system hierarchy. The results show that 24.1% ( $n = 46$ ) of the enabling

factors identified in the literature relate to the hierarchical level of the Athlete, teammates, opponents, and fans levels, and 52.9% ( $n = 101$ ) of the enabling factors relate to the level of Direct supervisors, management, medical, and performance personnel level. However, only 13% ( $n = 25$ ) of enabling factors to CSA in sport were identified at the combined top four hierarchical levels. Results indicate that the problem of CSA in sport is a systems issue, and future research is required to explore how these factors interact to enable CSA in sport.

Kim, S., Connaughton, D. P., & Hedlund, D. P. (2023). Youth sport coaches' perceptions of sexually inappropriate behaviors and intimate coach-athlete relationships. *Journal of Child Sexual Abuse*, 32(4), 397–417. DOI:10.1080/10538712.2023.2193179

Although sexual harassment and abuse in youth sport have received increasing research attention worldwide, less is known about youth coaches' perceptions of sexually inappropriate behaviors and intimate relationships with athletes. The purpose of this exploratory study was to examine youth sport coaches' perceptions of behaviors that can lead to potential sexual harassment and abuse, as well as to understand how coaches perceive coach-athlete sexual relationships. A cross-sectional survey was completed by 200 male coaches from various U.S. youth sport programs. Overall, a majority of coaches indicated behaviors associated with *sexist comments* and *verbal/physical advances* as sexually inappropriate. There was, however, a lack of consensus regarding what constitutes sexually inappropriate behaviors when the behavior was *instruction-related/contextually dependent*. Results were mixed regarding the perceptions of coach-athlete sexual relationships, with a notable number of coaches agreeing that sexual intimacies with young athletes (17 years or younger) are not always harmful and should not be prohibited. Based on a regression analysis, white coaches were more likely to exhibit negative perceptions about coach-athlete sexual relationships compared to ethnically diverse coaches. Overall, these findings warrant the development or reevaluation of policies and interventions aimed at preventing sexual harassment and

abuse in the youth sport environment. Continued research is needed to better understand youth sport coaches as the perpetrators of sexual harassment and abuse.

Nickodem, K. K., Basile, K. C., Espelage, D. L., Leemis, R. W., Ingram, K. M., & Barbero, C. (2023). [Sports participation, social networks, and sexual violence perpetration](#). *Journal of Interpersonal Violence, 38*(1-2), 1690-1717.  
DOI:10.1177/08862605221092067

Adolescent sexual violence (SV), which includes non-contact verbal sexual harassment (SH) and forced sexual contact (FSC), is a significant public health problem with long-term impacts on health and well-being. Understanding how sports participation is linked to SV can inform prevention efforts; however, the current literature is unclear about the nature of this association. Using data from 20 high schools, we investigate whether athletes in certain sports are at higher risk of SH and FSC perpetration than either other athletes or sports non-participants, and whether the risk is moderated by gender, dismissiveness of SV, or substance use intentions. We also utilize social network data to explore the role of relationships with peers and trusted adults to attenuate SH and FSC perpetration. Second, we incorporate characteristics of friends to further examine the role and composition of peer groups in the association between sports participation and perpetration of SH and FSC. Findings revealed a bivariate association between sport contact level and SH perpetration, but not FSC, and the association disappeared after adjusting for other covariates. Most prominently, dismissiveness of SV, intentions to use substances, and prior perpetration had the strongest association with perpetration regardless of sport contact level. Results also provided some support for the influence of peers and trusted adults in the sports context. Notably, the percentage of friends who perpetrated FSC and the percentage of friends who play a low-contact sport were positively associated with FSC perpetration, and the percentage of friends who play a high-contact sport was positively associated with SH perpetration. The paper concludes with a discussion of the sports context as an important venue for comprehensive

prevention efforts, including a focus on changing norms around adolescent SV and substance use.

Tuakli-Wosornu, Y. A., Kirby, S. L., Tivas, A., & Rhind, D. (2023). [The journey to reporting child protection violations in sport: Stakeholder perspectives](#). *Frontiers in Psychology*, 13, 907247. DOI:10.3389/fpsyg.2022.907247

Sport is a context within which human and children's rights should be respected, promoted, and protected. Yet, research and high-profile cases demonstrate that this is not always the case. To understand the existence (or not) of reporting mechanisms for child protection violations in sport, as well as how existing reporting and response systems operate, the authors, with the support of the Centre for Sport and Human Rights, conducted research on current abuse disclosure and reporting pathways in sport. The purpose was two-fold: to describe global child protection systems and reporting mechanisms, and to identify major areas of stakeholder concern, in terms of effective case resolution, healing, and children's experiences along reporting pathways in sport. Two sources of evidence were tapped. First, a rapid evidence assessment consisting of a literature review and an exploratory survey with 112 global stakeholders was conducted. Second, focus group interviews informed by the evidence assessment were held with nine athletes with lived experiences of abuse in youth sport and 13 global human and children's rights experts primarily working outside of sport. Through this emergent research, a 'pathway' or 'journey' to incident reporting in sport was developed, summarized as 5 'Rs': **R**eadiness, **R**ecognition, disclosure and **R**eporting, **R**esponse, and **R**emedy, which are similar but not identical to existing trauma frameworks. Each stage of the reporting journey appears to be influenced by a range of contextual, organizational, relational, and individual factors. All told, the disclosure of child protection violations in sport is a complex and dynamic process where myriad factors interact to influence outcomes, including healing. Key recommendations include: (a) establishing a global Safety Net Environment in sport practice with varying applications from region to

region, (b) building bridges with specific partner organizations to enhance child protection and safeguarding work in sport and (c) bringing safeguarding to unregulated sporting environments.

Cheever, J., & Eisenberg, M. E. (2022). Team sports and sexual violence: Examining perpetration by and victimization of adolescent males and females. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence, 37*(1–2), NP400–NP422. DOI:10.1177/0886260520915549

The authors examined whether team athletic involvement is related to sexual violence victimization and perpetration among male and female high school students. A secondary data analysis was conducted with Minnesota Student Survey data gathered from 122,501 Minnesota eighth-grade, ninth-grade, and 11th grade students. Multivariable logistic regression indicates that sport-involved youth are more likely to be involved in sexual violence than peers not involved in sports. For example, highly sport-involved males are significantly more likely to coerce a partner into sex (odds ratio [OR] = 1.35, 95% confidence interval [CI] = [1.01, 1.67]) and be coerced (OR = 1.19, 95% CI = [1.02, 1.38]) than nonsport peers. The results suggest high school sport programs could be an important site to implement comprehensive sexual violence prevention programs targeted at individual actions as well as harmful cultural norms and systematic inequities.

Everley, S. (2022). [Listening to children's voices in UK sports clubs: A Foucauldian analysis.](#) *Child Abuse Review, 31*(4), e2753. DOI:10.1002/car.2753

Organisations funded by Sport England or UK Sport must work towards achieving standards for safeguarding and protecting children in sport as set by the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children's Child Protection in Sport Unit (CPSU) and encourage a culture of listening to children. The present research was commissioned by the NSPCC CPSU to understand the practices of UK sports clubs regarding this objective. An electronic questionnaire was distributed through the national governing bodies of

sport working with the CPSU. Some 64 clubs/squads representing 6,000+ juniors (under 18 years) responded. Quantitative data were analysed using simple statistics and qualitative data were themed utilising Foucault's theory of power and following Braun and Clark's six-phase guide. Discourse, hierarchical judgement and docility were considered with reference to formal management and cultural environments. Semantic and latent themes were explored. The themes identified were: expectation awareness, reframing voice and preserving discourse. Clubs recognise the value of listening to children. However, existing power relations valorise adult knowledge fields over the experiences of juniors. Technology could provide an effective solution as it is remote, potentially anonymous and culturally accessible. As power is a productive force, problematisation of organisational culture could centralise children's voices and limit/prevent abuse.

Gattis, C., & Moore, M. (2022). [A conceptual analysis of maltreatment in sports: A sport social work perspective](#). *Frontiers in Sports and Active Living*, 4, 1017308.  
DOI:10.3389/fspor.2022.1017308

Maltreatment in sports is an epidemic and occurs in many relational forms such as physical, sexual, and emotional abuse or neglect. Maltreatment in sports also exists in forms of non-relational abuse and focuses on mezzo and macro forms of maltreatment such as systematic abuse, organizational abuse, and physiological abuse or neglect (e.g., exploitation and athlete trafficking). It is imperative to study the effects of maltreatment in sports as athletes can be the victims (survivors) as well as perpetrators of abuse. Recent research in the field of social work points to the benefits of Trauma-Informed Sports and Short Focused Brief Therapy (SFBT) as possible interventions. It is imperative for transferability in the field of maltreatment in sports, that practitioners define each form of abuse in the context of maltreatment and trauma. This commentary aims to discuss the different forms of maltreatment in sports that could affect athletes and provide discussion and insights into the void of research surrounding certain forms of non-

relational abuse and the role trauma-informed therapies serve in promoting athlete wellbeing from a social work lens.

Johansson, S. (2022). [From policy to practice: Measures against sexual abuse by Swedish sports federations](#). *Frontiers in Sports and Active Living*, 4, 841653. DOI:10.3389/fspor.2022.841653

The sport movement must protect children and young athletes from all forms of abuse. However, research points to a disconnect between policy and implementation of policy against sexual abuse. No studies have investigated measures against sexual abuse in Swedish sport. The purpose of this study was to explore measures against sexual abuse in the 10 largest sports federations (SFs) for child and youth sport in Sweden. The study draws on interviews with representatives ( $n = 18$ ) of the SFs and on a review of SFs' website content regarding sexual abuse and safe sport. Results show that the SFs have taken few or no measures against sexual abuse. Measures for safe sports vary in existence, development, and organization between the SFs, and many SFs are in the early stages of safe sport measures and practice. Although the SF representatives emphasize that sexual abuse is unacceptable, a conflict between making it visible or invisible emerges and creates a gap between policy and practice. Reproducing a culture of silence around sexual abuse in sports seems advantageously for SFs. Social and organizational factors that can debilitate safe sport measures and facilitate sexual abuse in sport are discussed.

Kaufman, K. L., Lee, D. S., Milroy, J. J., Yore, J., Sitney, M., Lipman, A., Glace, A., Kyler-Yano, J., & Raj, A. (2022). The role of theory in the prevention of sexual violence in sport. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 37(13-14), NP10459-NP10511. DOI:10.1177/08862605221095787

Sexual violence (SV) remains at epidemic proportions in the U.S. and growing evidence demonstrates that youth and adults engaged in sport are at increased risk of victimization and perpetration of SV. Unfortunately, sport SV prevention strategies are

rarely built on theory or theoretically grounded evidence, despite demonstrated effectiveness of such approaches. This study aimed to answer questions—Which theories are relevant to the development of effective SV prevention strategies in sport?; and How has theory been incorporated into existing SV prevention literature on sport safety? A scoping review of the literature plus expert input identified 29 theories pertinent to SV prevention in sport. A systemized review of the literature regarding SV prevention in sport resulted in the identification and characterization of 41 published articles. Authors then examined theory’s role in prevention literature. This study identified 29 theories pertinent to SV prevention in sports and applicable across the behavioral spectrum. Most theories were rooted in the Behavioral, Situational or Social/Attitudinal areas. Less common were theories grounded in Feminist (14%) domains. Theories were predominantly focused at the individual (42%), organizational (29%), and interpersonal (18%) ecological levels. Of the 41 sport prevention articles, 33 (83%) referred to a theory either explicitly or implicitly. Though most theories have been incorporated into prevention efforts, closer examination indicates that the majority were descriptive, unlikely to use a sophisticated methodology (10%; e.g., experimental, quasi-experimental), and rarely intended to assess a specific prevention program/strategy or policy (21%). Strong theoretical foundations are available for SV prevention research focused on sports, and their application appears to show value across the developmental spectrum of athletes. There remains a need for greater focus on theory-driven research intended to develop prevention strategies and policies designed to enhance athlete safety.

Milroy, J. J., Hanna, K., VandeLinde, T., Lee, D. S., Kaufman, K. L., Raj, A., Barker, K. M., Sitney, M., Lipman, A., Glace, A., & Kycler-Yano, J. (2022). Prevention of sexual violence in sport: A socioecological review. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence, 37*(13-14), NP10618–NP10641. DOI:10.1177/08862605211067003.

Sexual violence in sport is prevalent and represents a serious public health concern. The social-ecological model for health promotion has been used successfully as a framework

to identify individual-to-policy level factors aimed at health promotion or disease prevention. The purpose of this review was to examine both published and non-published (publicly available) SVP efforts conducted within the context of sport and make recommendations for future practice. Grey literature search methods were utilized to conduct a review of publicly available documents. This included (a) a comprehensive Google search using unique search terms that would identify SVP efforts within sport settings and (b) a review of the publicly accessible websites identified in the previous step. Following the grey literature search, and using the SVP practices identified in step one, we conducted a supplementary literature search using scientific publication search engines to identify whether the SVP practices identified in step one had associated peer-reviewed publications. Finally, we assessed various characteristics of each SVP practice including the target population, age range of intended participants, and whether the SVP had associated peer review publications. This led to the identification of 35 unique SVP practices: 25 (71%) SVP practices were assigned to the Intrapersonal level, 6 (17%) were assigned to the Interpersonal level, 9 (26%) were assigned to the Organizational level, 3 (9%) were assigned to the Community, and 2 (6%) were assigned to the Policy level. This review uncovered several important findings including a lack of multi-level SVP practices within sport, a lack of SVP practices that target children, minimal programming aimed at specifically preventing perpetration, the need to elevate policy level action, and a lack of peer-reviewed literature. Ultimately findings suggest that sport organizations ought to prioritize sexual violence prevention using national organizations for guidance.

Owusu-Sekyere, F., Rhind, D. J., & Hills, L. (2022). Safeguarding culture: Towards a new approach to preventing child maltreatment in sport. *Sport Management Review, 25*(2), 300–322. DOI:10.1080/14413523.2021.1930951

There is now undeniable evidence of child maltreatment in sport. This has provoked the gradual proliferation of safeguarding research aimed at protecting children from harm in sport. Such research recognises the need for a comprehensive and holistic approach

that addresses individual, interpersonal and systemic contributors to child maltreatment in sport. This study sought to provide such an approach by applying the well-researched concept of safety culture to safeguarding children in sport. The aim of this study was to conceptualise safety culture from a child safeguarding in sport perspective (i.e., safeguarding culture). To achieve this, 77 participants from five globally representative organisations took part in 45 Interviews and 7 focus groups. This produced 52 units of qualitative data which were analysed using thematic analysis. Findings suggested that safeguarding culture represents a holistic and integrated approach to prevent child maltreatment which comprises three first-order themes; safety management systems, committed leadership and stakeholder engagement. These themes have dynamic and reciprocal relationships, with their ideal formation and application dependent on internal and external contextual factors. Based on these findings, the Safeguarding Culture in Sport Model is presented before practical implications, limitations and directions for future research are offered. By presenting a new approach and model to safeguarding children in sport, this study represents an important advancement of knowledge around safeguarding children in sport.

Parent, S., Vaillancourt-Morel, M.-P., & Gillard, A. (2022). Interpersonal violence (IV) in sport and mental health outcomes in teenagers. *Journal of Sport and Social Issues*, 46(4), 323-337. DOI:10.1177/01937235211043652

The aim of the present study was to examine the associations between interpersonal violence (IV) experienced in the context of sport by teenagers and three mental health outcomes: self-esteem, psychological distress, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) symptoms. A convenience sample of 1055 French-Canadian athletes between the ages of 14 and 17 who were participating in an organized sport was recruited to participate in an online survey. Results showed that psychological violence and neglect as well as sexual violence were independently related to lower self-esteem while physical, psychological/neglect, and sexual violence were all independently related to higher

psychological distress and PTSD symptoms. Early intervention programs for athletes that experience IV is critical as it may help prevent the development of subsequent mental health issues.

Wilinsky, C. L., & McCabe, A. (2021). A review of emotional and sexual abuse of elite child athletes by their coaches. *Sports Coaching Review*, 10(1), 84-109.  
DOI:10.1080/21640629.2020.1775378

Emotional abuse and sexual abuse are often co-occurring forms of child maltreatment that can have numerous negative effects on development. This narrative review synthesises research on emotional and sexual abuse of elite child athletes by their coaches to examine the dynamics and consequences of abuse in the elite sport context and to investigate characteristics of this context – in which the coach-athlete relationship is central – that make these athletes especially vulnerable to abuse. This paper contributes to the literature through using a developmental perspective to identify these characteristics, which are the intensity and one-dimensionality of child athletes' experiences at the elite level. These characteristics are dangerous because they lead to the normalisation of the abuse and isolation of the still-developing athlete. Critical issues related to both emotional and sexual abuse of elite child athletes are also discussed, including internalisation and rationalisation of the abuse, disruption of identity, and dynamics surrounding disclosure.

Darling, A., Pope, L., Mooney, J. L., King, S., & Ablett, G. (2020). [Truth Project thematic report: Child sexual abuse in sports](#). Independent Inquiry Child Sexual Abuse, United Kingdom.

This report presents the Inquiry's research findings about experiences of victims and survivors of child sexual abuse in sports and the response of institutions to such abuse. It describes the experiences of Truth Project participants sexually abused in sports contexts

between the 1950s and 2010s, with the most recent cases in our sample beginning in the early 2010s. The research findings included in this report do not reflect all experiences of sexual abuse in sports contexts and are only indicative of the specific experiences of those who chose to share their experiences with the Truth Project.

Fortier, K., Parent, S., & Lessard, G. (2020). [Child maltreatment in sport: Smashing the wall of silence: A narrative review of physical, sexual, psychological abuses and neglect](#). *British Journal of Sports Medicine*, 54(1), 4-7. DOI:10.1136/bjsports-2018-100224

Child maltreatment in sport is an undeniable problem. High-profile cases of sexual abuse of child athletes are obvious examples of child maltreatment in this context. Young athletes also face physical and psychological maltreatment, as well as neglect, although these types of child maltreatment are understudied in sport and receive less public attention. Little is known as to how to define physical and psychological maltreatment and neglect in sport and their diverse manifestations. The aim of this paper is to propose concrete manifestations of each type of child maltreatment in sport. We aim to help practitioners better understand and researchers better measure this problem.

Johnson, N., Hanna, K., Novak, J., & Giardino, A. P. (2020). [US center for SafeSport: Preventing abuse in sports](#). *Women in Sport and Physical Activity Journal*, 28(1), 66-71. DOI:10.1123/wspaj.2019-0049

The U.S. Center for SafeSport (Center) is an independent nonprofit organization which is focused on ending all forms of abuse in sport, while carrying out its mission of making athlete well-being the centerpiece of the nation's sport culture through abuse prevention, education, and accountability. This paper provides context on the issue of abuse in sport, outlining the incidence rates of sexual violence and important policy and education research specific to the sport environment. This paper introduces the Center and its efforts to create a safe environment for all sport participants.

Smith, L. R., & Pegoraro, A. (2020). Media framing of Larry Nassar and the USA gymnastics child sex abuse scandal. *Journal of Child Sexual Abuse, 29*(4), 373–392.  
DOI:10.1080/10538712.2019.1703233

The framing of child sex abuse in media has previously been examined to uncover the potential ways news media could influence public perception about the issue. This mixed methods analysis of the Larry Nassar sex abuse scandal involving USA gymnastics and Michigan State University, grounded in the principles of framing theory, examines the patterns in coverage, as well as the episodic and thematic frames evident in the coverage of the scandal and its victims. Findings fall in line with past research on child sex abuse; framing is done primarily at the episodic level, focusing on the individual responsible, detailed accounts of the abuse of the victims, and isolating the instances of abuse to the specific organizations, while ignoring the broader themes of prevention and societal impacts. Implications for framing, attitudes toward girls and women in sport, and implications for abuse in sport are discussed.

Edelman, M., & Pacella, J. M. (2019). [Vaulted into victims: Preventing further sexual abuse in US Olympic sports through unionization and improved governance.](#) *Arizona Law Review, 61*, 463–503.

For almost two decades, a sexual predator groomed and abused hundreds of young, female athletes. All the while, he held an esteemed position as the national team doctor for USA Gymnastics, the national governing body for the sport of U.S. gymnastics, and served on the faculty at Michigan State University, where he treated countless female athletes in his sports medicine clinic. This predator, Larry Nassar, is now behind bars for life. At his sentencing hearings in 2018, hundreds of his victims, many of whom were Olympians, courageously came forward detailing their accounts of sexual abuse at the hands of Nassar, who veiled his abuse and molestation as “legitimate medical treatments” for injured athletes. Many of Nassar’s long list of victims were just children when he abused them (some as young as age ten), and, thus they were unable to

comprehend what was happening to them as they pursued their dreams. The nation is now left baffled as to how this abuse persisted for so long and why USA Gymnastics failed to properly detect and stop it. This Article, which is the first scholarly piece to address the USA Gymnastics tragedy from a legal and regulatory perspective, aims to answer the above questions by analyzing the cultural and structural failures within USA Gymnastics that led to this abuse, and by proposing two major governance reforms within the world of U.S. Olympic sports to greatly decrease the likelihood that such a tragedy would ever occur again. These reforms consist of the adoption of a robust whistleblower reporting system with appropriate antiretaliation protections and the unionization of gymnasts competing within USA Gymnastics so that the interests of vulnerable, young adults are adequately protected from a legal standpoint. The implementation of these legal and structural reforms will help to ensure that, going forward, the physical and emotional well-being of minor athletes is at the forefront of any organization that purports to protect them.

Timpka, T., Janson, S., Jacobsson, J., Dahlström, Ö., Spreco, A., Kowalski, J., Bargaría, V., Mountjoy, M., & Svedin, C. G. (2019). Lifetime history of sexual and physical abuse among competitive athletics (track and field) athletes: Cross sectional study of associations with sports and non-sports injury. *British Journal of Sports Medicine*, 53(22), 1412-1417. DOI:10.1136/bjsports-2018-099335

The objective was to examine associations between lifetime sexual and physical abuse, and the likelihood of injury within and outside sport in athletes involved in competitive athletics. A cross sectional study was performed among the top 10 Swedish athletics athletes using 1 year prevalence of sports and non-sports injuries as the primary outcome measure. Associations with sociodemographic characteristics, lifetime abuse history and training load were investigated. Data were analysed using simple and multiple logistic regression models. 11% of 197 participating athletes reported lifetime sexual abuse; there was a higher proportion of women (16.2%) than men (4.3%) ( $P=0.005$ ). 18% reported lifetime physical abuse; there was a higher proportion of men (22.8%) than women (14.3%)

( $P=0.050$ ). For women, lifetime sexual abuse was associated with an increased likelihood of a non-sports injury (OR 8.78, CI 2.76 to 27.93;  $P<0.001$ ). Among men, increased likelihood of a non-sports injury was associated with more frequent use of alcoholic beverages (OR 6.47, CI 1.49 to 28.07;  $P=0.013$ ), while commencing athletics training at  $>13$  years of age was associated with a lower likelihood of non-sports injury (OR 0.09, CI 0.01 to 0.81;  $P=0.032$ ). Lifetime physical abuse was associated with a higher likelihood of sports injury in women (OR 12.37, CI 1.52 to 100.37;  $P=0.019$ ). Among men, athletes with each parents with  $\leq 12$  years formal education had a lower likelihood of sustaining an injury during their sports practice (OR 0.37, CI 0.14 to 0.96;  $P=0.040$ ). Lifetime sexual and physical abuse were associated with an increased likelihood of injury among female athletes. Emotional factors should be included in the comprehension of injuries sustained by athletes.

Bjørnseth, I., & Szabo, A. (2018). [Sexual violence against children in sports and exercise: A systematic literature review](#). *Journal of Child Sexual Abuse*, 27(4), 365–385.  
DOI:10.1080/10538712.2018.1477222

Sexual violence against children in sports receives little research attention. The aim of this Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses-based systematic literature review was to synthesize the up-to-date knowledge and identify the already known and the still unknown information in this area. The literature search yielded seven eligible studies for inclusion. Their key outcomes suggest that sexual violence against children in sports is prevalent. Girls are more often the victims than boys, but gender appears to mediate the disclosure. Minority groups are at higher risk for sexual violence, and athletes at higher levels of competition seem to be more vulnerable for grooming. While the coach is often seen as the perpetrator, new research suggests that peer-athletes may precede the coach. Disclosure is a problem, due to personal and interpersonal concerns, which deters scholastic research in this area. In the final section of the review, a “what we know” and “what we need to know” list of highlights is offered as the concluding summary of the review. These factual points could raise the awareness of

parents and/or guardians about the vulnerability of their children to sexual abuse if they are involved in sports. They could also attract the attention of the policy makers to the urgent need of developing and implementing preventive measures to make sports and exercise environments pleasurable and safe for children.

McMahon, J., Knight, C. J., & McGannon, K. R. (2018). Educating parents of children in sport about abuse using narrative pedagogy. *Sociology of Sport Journal*, 35(4), 314-323. DOI:10.1123/ssj.2017-0186

Research on abuse in sport reveals that sporting environments are unique contexts where athlete abuse can occur. An international panel on “safe sport” identified the need to implement strategies to ensure sport is safe for all. One strategy identified as a way of preventing abuse from occurring in sport is to educate the parents of athletes. This study centres on an education intervention implemented with 14 parents from a gymnastics and swimming context where narrative pedagogy (e.g., athletes’ stories of abuse) was used. As a result of engaging with narrative pedagogy, parents were able to identify unacceptable coaching practices. However, the extent of several dominant cultural ideologies (e.g., competitive performance ideology) became known through the parents’ responses and influenced the way they took up the athletes’ abuse stories.

Nurse, A. M. (2018). [Coaches and child sexual abuse prevention training: Impact on knowledge, confidence, and behavior](#). *Children and Youth Services Review*, 88, 395-400. DOI:10.1016/j.childyouth.2018.03.040

Over the last twenty years, increasing numbers of athletic associations in the United States have begun requiring child sexual abuse (CSA) prevention training for staff members. This is a potentially powerful step because sexual abuse continues to be a significant problem in youth athletics. Additionally, coaches develop close relationships with children, putting them in a unique position to recognize and report the warning signs

of child sexual abuse. Now that training has been in place for some time, it is important to assess its impact. This study draws on pretest, posttest, and six month follow-up questionnaires as well as observational data collected from over 500 adults (93 of whom were coaches) at a national adult prevention program. It examines coaches' knowledge about CSA, their confidence in identifying it, and their engagement in protective behaviors. The article also addresses the question of whether coaches have unique training needs that are not well met by programs targeted to teachers or parents. Results suggest that training improves coaches' knowledge and boosts their confidence level. Findings about behavior change are mixed, but male coaches are found to respond to CSA suspicions less often than do female coaches. Coach knowledge, confidence, and behavior are not significantly different from either teachers or parents but they have unique concerns about CSA and CSA training. The article concludes with policy suggestions for developing and improving coach-training programs.

Rhind, D. J., Kay, T., Hills, L., & Owusu-Sekyere, F. (2017). Building a system to safeguard children in sport: The eight CHILDREN pillars. *Journal of Sport and Social Issues*, 41(2), 151-171. DOI:10.1177/0193723517696966

In October 2014, the International Safeguards for Children in Sport were launched. These Safeguards were developed, implemented, and evaluated based on a pilot process which took place over the preceding 2 years. Throughout this piloting phase, a range of qualitative techniques were employed to capture the experiences of people within 32 of the organizations that were working toward the International Safeguards. The participant organizations varied based on their geographical focus (e.g., local, national, and international) as well as their mission (e.g., participation, competition, and sport for development). Based on a thematic analysis, eight key pillars were identified on which systems which safeguard children can be built. These are known as the CHILDREN pillars: Cultural sensitivity, Holistic, Incentives, Leadership, Dynamic, Resources, Engagement, and

Networks. Illustrative examples are provided and the future directions of this project will be discussed.

Vertommen, T., Kampen, J., Schipper-van Veldhoven, N., Wouters, K., Uzieblo, K., & Van Den Eede, F. (2017). Profiling perpetrators of interpersonal violence against children in sport based on a victim survey. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, *63*, 172-182. DOI:10.1016/j.chiabu.2016.11.029

The current article reports on perpetrator characteristics gathered in the first large-scale prevalence study on interpersonal violence against children in sport in the Netherlands and Belgium. Using retrospective web survey design, 4043 adults answered questions on their experiences in youth sport. The study looks at the number of perpetrators as well as individual descriptive characteristics (sex, age, and role in the sport organization) of perpetrators of psychological, physical and sexual violence as reported retrospectively by victim-respondents. This information was then clustered to provide an overview of the most common perpetrator profiles. Results show that in all types of interpersonal violence in sport, perpetrators are predominantly male peer athletes who frequently operate together in (impromptu) groups. Several differences between the three types of interpersonal violence are highlighted. While incidents of physical violence perpetrated by coaches tend to be less severe compared to those by other perpetrators, acts of sexual violence committed by a coach are significantly more severe. The presented findings shed new light on perpetrators of interpersonal violence in sport, nuancing the predominant belief that the male coach is the main perpetrator while providing nuanced information that can be utilized to improve prevention and child protection measures and other safeguarding initiatives in sport.

Parent, S., Lavoie, F., Thibodeau, M. È., Hébert, M., & Blais, M. (2016). [Sexual violence experienced in the sport context by a representative sample of Quebec adolescents](#). *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 31(16), 2666–2686.  
DOI:10.1177/0886260515580366

This is the first study to report the prevalence of sexual violence perpetrated by a sport coach within a representative sample of the general population of adolescents aged between 14 and 17 years ( $N = 6,450$ ). The questionnaire administered in high schools includes self-reported measures on a variety of dimensions relevant to the study of victimization, including sexual abuse, sexual contacts perceived as consensual, sexual harassment, and involvement in an organized sport context. Descriptive and chi-square analyses were performed. The results show that 0.5% of adolescents experienced sexual abuse involving a coach. When considering all adolescents who experienced sexual abuse in their lifetime (10.2%), it appears that 5.3% of them were victims of sexual abuse by a coach. Participants also reported experiencing sexual harassment from a coach (0.4%) and consensual sexual contacts (1.2%) with a coach in the 12 months preceding the study. Questions are raised on the overrepresentation of boys in situations of sexual victimization experiences in an organized sport context.

Hedges, A. (2015). Safeguarding in sport. *Sport in Society*, 18(5), 614–625.  
DOI:10.1080/17430437.2014.976010

‘Safeguarding’ is a new term, which has developed from child protection issues that resulted in UK legislation. It refers to an all-encompassing proactive approach to keeping children and vulnerable adults safe from harm or abuse. High-profile cases have raised public awareness of the importance of safeguarding and the need to report concerns. Sport leaders have both the opportunity and influence that may facilitate abuse. Therefore, all sports require robust safeguarding and safer recruitment policies and practices including the use of Criminal Record checks. Governing bodies are encouraging personalities to appreciate their positions as role models. As such, sport is a powerful

means of engaging the public in conversations about diversity and appropriate behaviour.

Mountjoy, M., Rhind, D. J. A., Tiivas, A., & Leglise, M. (2015). [Safeguarding the child athlete in sport: A review, a framework and recommendations for the IOC youth athlete development model](#). *British Journal of Sports Medicine*, 49(13), 883-886.  
DOI:10.1136/bjsports-2015-094619

Participation in sport has many physical, psychological and social benefits for the child athlete. A growing body of evidence indicates, however, that sport participation may have inherent threats for the child's well-being. The subject of safeguarding children in sport has seen an increase in scientific study. In particular, there is increasing emphasis on identifying who is involved in abuse, the context of where it occurs and the identification of the various forms of abuse that take place. Safeguarding principles developed by the International Safeguarding Children in Sport Founders Group are presented along with 8 underlying pillars which underpin the successful adoption and implementation of safeguarding strategies. This safeguarding model is designed to assist sport organisations in the creation of a safe sporting environment to ensure that the child athlete can flourish and reach their athletic potential through an enjoyable experience. The aim of this narrative review is to present a summary of the scientific literature on the threats to children in sport; introduce a framework to categorise these threats; identify research gaps in the field and provide safeguarding recommendations for sport organisations.

Owton, H., & Sparkes, A. C. (2015). [Sexual abuse and the grooming process in sport: Learning from Bella's story](#). *Sport, Education and Society*, 22(6), 732-743.  
DOI:10.1080/13573322.2015.1063484

Through a process of collaborative autoethnography we explore the experiences of one female athlete named Bella who was groomed and then sexually abused by her male

coach. Bella's story signals how the structural conditions and power relationships embedded in competitive sporting environments, specifically the power invested in the coach, provide a unique socio-cultural context that offer a number of potentialities for sexual abuse and exploitation to take place. We offer Bella's story as a pedagogical resource for those involved in the world of sport to both think about and with as part of a process of encouraging change at the individual and institutional levels.

Rhind, D., McDermott, J., Lambert, E., & Koleva, I. (2015). A review of safeguarding cases in sport. *Child Abuse Review, 24*(6), 418-426. DOI:10.1002/car.2306

This study represents the first investigation into incidents of safeguarding concern in sport within the UK. Questionnaires were completed by 41 lead welfare officers from national governing bodies. A total of 652 cases were reported by a range of key stakeholders, covering a variety of different forms of abuse. Physical and sexual abuse were found to be the most frequently alleged forms of abuse. The majority of alleged perpetrators and victims were males. The need for a standardised form for collecting case data as part of normal practice is highlighted along with the necessity for training and support to manage safeguarding cases both internally and externally to sport organisations.

Teasley, M. L., & Gill, E. (2015). School sports, sexual abuse, and the utility of school social workers. *Children & Schools, 37*(1), 4-7. DOI:10.1093/cs/cdu032

The occurrence of sexual abuse among youths, particularly those in junior high and high school participating in school sports, is a phenomenon that has received very little attention from school social workers and other related service personnel. Despite the reality that millions of children and adolescents participate in sports yearly, there is little written within the research literature on the role of related services personnel on how to protect children and adolescents from sexual abuse at the hands of teachers who serve as coaches, sports administrators, and other school-affiliated authority figures. Similarly,

despite the reality that teachers, in every state, are mandated reporters, many are uneasy about making accusations against their colleagues. We know little empirically about the challenge of sexual abuse occurring between authority figures and youths in schools, yet local news outlet throughout the nation do report its occurrence and allegations. This prompts the need for greater research, education, and enhanced awareness on the topic. School social workers should be aware of the signs, symptoms, and procedures for reporting sexual abuse between authority figures in school and youths.

Lang, M., & Hartill, M. (Eds.). (2014). *Safeguarding, child protection and abuse in sport: International perspectives in research, policy and practice*. Routledge.

The safeguarding of children and young people participating in sport has become an increasingly prominent concern in policy-making and research communities around the world. Major organisations such as the IOC and UNICEF now officially recognize that children in sport can be at risk of exploitation and abuse. This concern has led to the emergence of new initiatives and policies aimed at protecting vulnerable young people and athletes. This book is the first to comprehensively review contemporary developments in child protection and safeguarding in sport on a global level. Part One critically analyses current child protection and safeguarding policy and practice in sport across a range of countries, including the US, Canada, the UK, Australia, China and Germany, providing a global context for current policy and practice. This represents the most comprehensive review to date of the landscape of child protection and safeguarding in sport and provides a starting point for critical international comparisons. Part Two explores a range of issues related to child protection and safeguarding in sport, such as emotional abuse, injury and over-training. While in many instances the impetus for policy in this area has arisen from concerns about sexual abuse, the second part of this book therefore opens up a broader, more holistic approach to child and athlete welfare. By bringing together many of the leading researchers working in child and athlete protection in sport from around the world, this book is important reading for all advanced

students, researchers, policy-makers or practitioners working in youth sport, physical education, sports coaching, coach education or child protection.

Noble, J., & Vermillion, M. (2014). Youth sport administrators' perceptions and knowledge of organizational policies on child maltreatment. *Children and Youth Services Review, 38*, 52–57. DOI:10.1016/j.childyouth.2014.01.011

As one of the largest segments of the sport industry, youth sport provides programs for tens of millions of children throughout the United States. With the growth of youth sports programs, issues concerning the safety of participants have increased. One issue that has garnered considerable attention involves the society-wide problem of maltreatment and abuse of children, and how administrators of youth sport programs address potential incidents of maltreatment within their programs. The purpose of this research is to examine youth sport administrators' perceptions of their organizational policies regarding child maltreatment. Results from an online survey administered throughout a central region of the United States indicated that youth sport programmers view child abuse as a problem in society, but it is not a significant issue within their own organizations. They agree that youth sport administrators have an obligation to report suspicions of child abuse. There were mixed results regarding how sport organizations train their employees to deal with child abuse, though many respondents agreed their organizations have policies toward child abuse. Limitations and recommendations for further research are also discussed.

Hartill, M. (2013). Concealment of child sexual abuse in sports. *Quest, 65*(2), 241–254. DOI:10.1080/00336297.2013.773532

When the sexual abuse of children is revealed, it is often found that other nonabusing adults were aware of the abuse but failed to act. During the past twenty years or so, the concealment of child sexual abuse (CSA) within organizations has emerged as a key

challenge for child protection work. Recent events at Pennsylvania State University (PSU) received unprecedented media coverage and many commentators observed similarities with the abuse scandals in organized religion. Drawing upon Pierre Bourdieu's critique of the Catholic Church, this article problematizes the emphasis on the moral failings of individual elites, arguing that concealment of CSA is an historical feature of organized sport. It concludes that the emergence of child protection agendas in sport must be accompanied by more reflexive analyses about youth-sport if we are to significantly improve our capacity to safeguard children and young people from sexual violence within sport and physical education contexts.

Stafford, A., Alexander, K., & Fry, D. (2013). Playing through pain: Children and young people's experiences of physical aggression and violence in sport. *Child Abuse Review*, 22(4), 287-299. DOI:10.1002/car.2289

While there has been some focus on physical abuse in the general child abuse literature, there have been few studies examining the physical abuse of children in sport. This article focuses mainly on peer physical harm in sport. However, we argue that to fully understand physical harm between young people in sport requires understanding: (1) the 'sporting ethos' prevalent in sport where training and competing to the limits of physicality are part of the culture; and (2) the physical harm that occurs between coaches and young people as a context for understanding physical harm between young people. Results are based on a convenience sample of 6124 young people (age 18-22) who completed an online survey about their experiences of participating in sport as children; 89 follow-up interviews were conducted with a sub-set of these young people. Findings suggest that in sport, where training and competing to the limits of physicality are inherent to sporting achievement, physical harm is common and takes on a different form to physical harm of children in other settings.

Parent, S., & Bannon, J. (2012). Sexual abuse in sport: What about boys? *Children and Youth Services Review*, 12(2), 354–359. DOI:10.1016/j.childyouth.2011.11.004

In Quebec, over 500,000 young people are involved in organized sport and the majority of these participants are boys. However, despite this high number of young males participating in sport, the issue of sexual abuse among male athletes has been mainly overlooked. Researchers who have studied sexual abuse in the context of sport have primarily focused on female victims. And yet, some studies have shown that between 2% and 6% of male athletes have suffered sexual abuse in the context of their sport. Thus, studies currently provide very little insight into the problem of sexual abuse among boys in sport. This article presents the current knowledge on the topic and highlights the importance for the academic community to study this issue.

Parent, S. (2011). Disclosure of sexual abuse in sport organizations: A case study. *Journal of Child Sexual Abuse*, 20(3), 322–337. DOI:10.1080/10538712.2011.573459

The disclosure of sexual abuse in the world of sports is a process that has not been widely documented. This article presents the results of a document analysis of sport organization policies and interviews conducted with 27 sport stakeholders. The interviews focus on these stakeholders' perceptions of how the disclosure process would unfold if a case of sexual abuse were to arise in their organization and their perceptions of the actual cases experienced in the sport organizations participating in this study. The results reveal several problems affecting the disclosure of sexual abuse in sport organizations.

Parent, S., & Demers, G. (2010). Sexual abuse in sport: A model to prevent and protect athletes. *Child Abuse Review*, 20(2), 120–133. DOI:10.1002/car.1135

Several studies clearly show that sexual abuse exists in sport. Currently, very few studies have examined the prevention and management of this problem in sports organisations. This article explores the measures used to prevent sexual abuse in sports organisations

as well as the perceptions of the sports actors affected by these measures (parents, athletes, administrators and coaches). The results demonstrate that several factors affect the implementation of measures and the management of this problem in sports organisations. Moreover, few measures exist to prevent and manage cases of sexual abuse in these organisations, thus jeopardising the protection of athletes.

Fasting, K., & Brackenridge, C. (2009). Coaches, sexual harassment and education. *Sport, Education & Society*, 14(1), 21–35. DOI:10.1080/13573320802614950

Sexual harassment in sport has become an active research field within the past decade yet we know relatively little about the characteristics of the harassing coach. How are harassing coaches characterized by their victims, that is, the athletes themselves? Do they demonstrate specific kinds of behaviours? One purpose of this article is to address these types of questions. Another is to assess the usefulness of general classifications of perpetrators of sexual harassment. This is done by examining whether qualitative data from sexually harassed elite female athletes support the various conceptual frameworks for sexual harassment that are presented. Results from interviews with 19 female elite athletes who were sexually harassed by their coaches produced a sport typology that consists of three main types: 1) The Flirting-Charming Coach, 2) The Seductive Coach and 3) The Authoritarian Coach. These types are discussed in relation to the previous classifications to test the degree of fit. The limitations of monolithic classifications are exposed by this exercise: the data suggest that, rather than being one-type only, sexually harassing coaches select from a repertoire that may include several different harassment scripts. They vary these according to situational conditions. The wider limitation of social science classifications, that their categories are not discrete, also applies here. This need not be a practical limitation, however, if the typologies are used as heuristic devices rather than to determine, for example, specific disciplinary outcomes or treatment regimes. Sexual harassment prevention is often either missing from coach education programmes altogether or subsumed within broader themes such as

(gender) equity or diversity management. One of the educational values of typologies is that they focus attention on the range of potential sexually harassing behaviours in ways which might otherwise escape attention. Communication styles, postures, gestures and group management techniques are just some of the elements of coaching that can be improved with an understanding of sexual harassment scripts. It is difficult to assess whether feminization of the coaching profession would lead to a less harassing environment. But, since this environment is so closely linked to hegemonic masculinity, and what are often described as traditional male values, we hypothesize that a transformation of the coaching culture, and associated re-scripting of coach behaviour, might be easier if more female coaches were involved in sport.

Hartill, M. (2009). The sexual abuse of boys in organized male sports. *Men and Masculinities*, 12(2), 225–249. DOI:10.1177/1097184X07313361

Childhood sexual abuse (CSA) is now a significant issue for organized sports. Since its “discovery” thirty years ago, research on CSA has been guided mostly by the “maleperpetrator–female victim” paradigm; hence, the perspective of the sexually abused male in the sports context has rarely been considered. This article considers organized male-sports as a social space that facilitates the sexual abuse of boys. Through promoting a sociological perspective on child abuse rather than an individualized and pathologized approach, I consider how the institutions of childhood, masculinity, and sports fit together and the contribution that sports make to the adult–child relation. I use Spiegel’s ecosystems model of the sexually abused male (SAM) and the sociology of sports literature to identify how some normative features of male sports contribute to the sexual abuse of male children.

Rossato, C., & Brackenridge, C. (2009). Child protection training in sport-related degrees and initial teacher training for physical education: An audit. *Child Abuse Review*, 18(2), 81-93. DOI:10.1002/car.1052

This article reports on an online survey of child protection training for students on sport-related and Initial Teacher Training Physical Education degrees, and on the views of recently graduated teachers of the usefulness of such training in their everyday work. The results indicate that child protection training is provided in most courses but in varying amounts. Respondents to the survey reported positively, in the main, about the effects of new requirements for teacher training (*Every Child Matters: Change for Children*, Department for Education and Skills, 2004). Reasons given for not including child protection in courses were: lack of time; the perceived vocational nature of the topic; lack of fit with course aims and objectives; lack of relevance; and the research rather than professional orientation of the course. Recently graduated teachers' views on their pre-service child protection training differed from the claims made about this in the survey. In particular, they raised concerns about their lack of preparation for dealing with potential child protection situations. The article concludes that child protection training within sport-related degrees is deficient in both consistency of delivery and in content, and that, in addition to preparing students to recognise signs and indicators of abuse, curricula should also address undergraduates' confidence and skills for responding to abuse in their everyday professional practice.

Stanley, N. (2009). [Safeguarding children in diverse contexts](#). *Child Abuse Review*, 18(2), 77-80. DOI:10.1002/car.1063

The papers in this issue focus attention on the wide range of settings in which child harm may occur and they both contribute to the argument that safeguarding is everybody's business whilst raising questions about how abusive behaviour is understood and responded to in different contexts. Public opinion shaped by media accounts of individual cases plays a key role in defining child abuse and locating it in

new settings (Parton, 2007). The role of the media in triggering public concern and a consequent policy response to child deaths has been studied in the UK context (Butler and Drakeford, 2003; Stanley and Manthorpe, 2004; recent coverage of the death of Baby P provided a vivid example of that process in action). However, there is also a role for research which can generate evidence on the extent to which high profile cases are representative or not, and which can challenge simplistic representations of child harm, as well as exploring the effectiveness of prevention and intervention strategies.

Stirling, A. E., & Kerr, G. A. (2009). Abused athletes' perceptions of the coach-athlete relationship. *Sport in Society*, 12(2), 227-239. DOI:10.1080/17430430802591019

The coach-athlete relationship is often one of the most important and influential relationships experienced by a young athlete. While coaches may have many positive influences on young athletes, emerging literature also indicates problems of abuse. In fact, recent research indicates that athletes are not immune from experiences of physical, sexual and emotional abuse. Furthermore, the power of the coach is thought to be a contributing risk factor in abusive relationships. The purpose of this study therefore was to investigate abused athletes' perceptions of the coach-athlete relationship. More specifically, we were interested in abused athletes' perceptions of the power held by the coach, and the influence of this power on an athlete's experience of abuse. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with nine previously abused athletes; four retired elite female gymnasts and five retired elite female swimmers. Consistent with previous research, the participants reflected upon the significant power held by the coach over the athlete. The findings contributed to existing literature by revealing specific ways in which the coach's power influenced the athletes' experiences of abuse and their ability to report incidences of maltreatment. These findings are discussed and recommendations are made for abuse prevention and future research.

Brackenridge, C. H., Bishopp, D., Moussalli, S., & Tapp, J. (2008). The characteristics of sexual abuse in sport: A multidimensional scaling analysis of events described in media reports. *International Journal of Sport & Exercise Psychology*, 6(4), 385-406. DOI:10.1080/1612197X.2008.9671881

Most research on sexual abuse has been conducted within family settings (Fergusson & Mullen, 1999). In recent years, following several high-profile convictions and scandals, research into sexual abuse has also encompassed institutional and community settings, such as sport and the church (Gallagher, 2000; Woolfe, Jaffe, Jette, & Poisson, 2003). Research into sexual abuse in sport, for example, began with both prevalence studies (Kirby & Greaves, 1996; Leahy, Pretty, & Tenenbaum, 2002) and qualitative analyses of the processes and experiences of athlete sexual abuse (Brackenridge, 1997; Cense & Brackenridge, 2001, Toftegaard-Nielsen, 2001). From such work, descriptions of the modus operandi of abusers in sport, and the experiences and consequences for athlete victims, have been provided, informing both abuse prevention work and coach education. To date, however, no study has provided empirical support for multiple associations or identified patterns of sex offending in sport in ways that might allow comparisons with research-generated models of offending outside sport. This paper reports on an analysis of 159 cases of criminally defined sexual abuse, reported in the print media over a period of 15 years. The main aim of the study was to identify the nature of sex offending in sport, focusing on the methods and locations of offenses. The data were analysed using multidimensional scaling (MDS) as a data reduction method in order to identify the underlying themes within the abuse and explore the inter-relationships of behavior, victim, and context variables. The findings indicate that there are specific themes that can be identified within the perpetrator strategies that include "intimate," "aggressive," and "dominant" modes of interaction. The same patterns that are described here within the specific context of sport are consistent with themes that emerge from similar behavioral analyses of rapist (Bishopp, 2003; Canter & Heritage, 1990) and child molester groups (Canter, Hughes, & Kirby, 1998). These patterns show a correspondence to a

broader behavioral model--the interpersonal circumplex (e.g., Leary, 1957). Implications for accreditation and continuing professional education of sport psychologists are noted.

Kerr, G. A., & Stirling, A. E. (2008). Child protection in sport: Implications of an athlete centered philosophy. *Quest, 60*(2), 307-323. DOI:10.1080/00336297.2008.10483583

As sport is a highly child-populated domain, the establishment of child-protection measures to reduce the potential for child maltreatment in sport is critical. Concern for the protection of children in sport has a history that is as old as modern sport itself; however, it is only recently that concern has been established about children's experiences of relational forms of abuse and neglect in this domain. The purpose of this article, therefore, is to review current developments in sport with respect to child-protection policy, education, and research. It is the authors' supposition that an athlete-centered philosophy of sport is perhaps the best way to address the protection of children in sport. The philosophy of an athlete-centered sport model is described, and through the integration of an athlete-centered approach to sport, recommendations are made for future implementation of child-protection measures.

Bringer, J. D., Brackenridge, C. H., & Johnston, L. H. (2006). [Swimming coaches' perceptions of sexual exploitation in sport: A preliminary model of role conflict and role ambiguity](#). *The Sport Psychologist, 20*(4), 465-479. DOI:10.1123/tsp.20.4.465

Bringer, Brackenridge, and Johnston (2002) identified *role conflict and ambiguity* as an emerging theme for some swimming coaches who felt under increased scrutiny because of wider concerns about sexual exploitation in sport (Boocock, 2002). To further understand this emerging theme, 3 coaches who had engaged in sexual relations with athletes, or had allegations of abuse brought against them, took part in in-depth interviews. Grounded theory method (Strauss & Corbin, 1998) was adopted to explore how

these coaches responded differently to increased public scrutiny. The findings are discussed in relation to how sport psychologists can help to shape perceptions of coaching effectiveness that are congruent with child protection measures. Reflective practice is proposed as one method by which coaches may embed child and athlete protection in their definition of effective coaching, rather than seeing it as an external force to which they must accommodate.

Hartill, M. (2005). Sport and the sexually abused male child. *Sport, Education and Society*, 10(3), 287–304, DOI:10.1080/13573320500254869.

Through feminist research in the study of sport, the issue of child sexual abuse has been driven onto the agenda of sports organisations, resulting in considerable practical reform (Brackenridge, 2001). However, the flip-side to this development is that the experience of sexually abused males has been largely ignored. In 1990, Struve claimed, 'a growing number of clinicians who work with sexual abuse are discovering that males probably are sexually victimized just as frequently as females' (p. 3). Despite research on the 'sexually victimized' male reaching back over the last 15 to 20 years, researchers in sport have, so far, largely ignored the issue of the sexual abuse of males. Certainly, there has been no in-depth treatment of the abuse of males and sport researchers, to date, have been driven by the 'male perpetrator–female victim' paradigm. This focus has influenced the type of research that has been conducted and has inadvertently contributed to the further silencing of the sexually abused male. This paper focuses upon the absence of sexually abused male children in empirical research and theoretical analyses of sport. It notes issues, previously ignored within sport, surrounding the sexual abuse of males, particularly the under-identification of this group, as well as recognition of female perpetrators. Through reviewing literature from social work and therapeutic disciplines, this paper brings the sexually abused male into focus and facilitates a discussion of issues, distinct from the sexual abuse of females that have much relevance for sport. It concludes that if sport is to attempt to safeguard all children from sexual abuse, research

in, and analyses of, sport, must reflect the highly complex nature of child sexual abuse, including the experience of male children.

Gervis, M., & Dunn, N. (2004). The emotional abuse of elite child athletes by their coaches. *Child Abuse Review, 13*(3), 215–223. DOI:10.1002/car.843

This study investigates the prevalence of emotional abuse of elite child athletes by their coaches in the UK. Previous research has focused primarily on the parent–child relationship, with little attention given to date on the sports environment. Participants were 12 former elite child athletes who competed as internationals in their respective age groups. All participants had been identified as elite athletes between the ages of 8 and 16 years ( $M = 13.1$  yr,  $SD = 2.4$  yr) and had competitive careers of between 6 and 10 years. Participants were from the sports of diving ( $N = 2$ ), football ( $N = 3$ ), gymnastics ( $N = 4$ ), hockey, netball and track and field athletics ( $N = 1$  each). The study was a retrospective analysis of their experiences as elite child athletes. (Age at interview:  $M = 22.9$  yr,  $SD = 0.9$  yr. male = 4, female = 8.) Thus, participants were reflecting on experiences from about 10 years previously, so their responses represented the residual impact of their experiences that had survived over this period. Data were collected using semi-structured interviews and response-coding techniques. Abusive behaviours were categorized under eight headings: belittling, humiliating, shouting, scapegoating, rejecting, isolating, threatening and ignoring. Results showed that all ( $N = 12$ ) of the participants reported experiencing belittling and shouting by their coach, nine athletes reported frequent threatening behaviour, nine reported frequent humiliation, seven reported scapegoating, six reported rejection or being ignored and four reported being isolated when they were elite child athletes. All participants reported that the behaviour of their coaches changed and became more negative after they were identified as elite performers. Participants reported feeling stupid, worthless, upset, less confident, humiliated, depressed, fearful and angry as a result of the behaviour of their coaches. The results provide tentative

evidence that the behaviour of some coaches is a threat to the psychological well-being of elite child athletes.

Brackenridge, C. (2003). Dangerous sports? Risk, responsibility and sex offending in sport. *Journal of Sexual Aggression, 9*(1), 3-12. DOI:10.1080/1355260031000137922

Sport offers prime sex offending opportunities yet has only recently been the subject of exploration and research. In this paper, the respective research approaches adopted by sport science and sex offender 'science' are compared. It is argued that both suffer from occupational blindness towards situational factors and that their joint obsession with individual behaviour modification—for performance enhancement in sport or reducing recidivism rates through treatment—may reduce the efficacy of risk-management interventions at the systemic level. Recent research and policy initiatives are used to illustrate how risk management responsibilities have been implemented in sport.

Leahy, T., Pretty, G., & Tenenbaum, G. (2003). Childhood sexual abuse narratives in clinically and nonclinically distressed adult survivors. *Professional Psychology: Research and Practice, 34*(6), 657-665. DOI:10.1037/0735-7028.34.6.657

Understanding the complex dynamics involved in sexual abuse trauma is of central importance to clinicians working with adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse. In this study 20 volunteer participants formed 2 gender-balanced groups differentiated by clinical (vs. nonclinical) levels of distress. A negative case analysis revealed group differences in participants' perceptions of the impact of the abuse, meaning attributions for the abuse, and social support experiences. Resolving traumatic attachment to the perpetrator may be the core therapeutic task complicating the process of reclaiming trust, expressing grief and anger, and developing empowered meaning attributions. Successful negotiation of the complex pathways to recovery requires a therapeutic environment free from countertransference errors.

Wolfe, D. A., Jaffe, P. G., Jetté, J. L., & Poisson, S. E. (2003). The impact of child abuse in community institutions and organizations: Advancing professional and scientific understanding. *Clinical Psychology: Science and Practice, 10*(2), 179-191.  
DOI:10.1093/clipsy.bpg021

Although child abuse by family members has received considerable scientific and professional attention, knowledge on the impact of abuse committed by perpetrators in (nonfamilial) community organizations and institutions is lacking. We present a conceptual framework derived from child abuse studies, the authors' collective clinical experience with adult survivors of nonfamilial abuse, and two independent panels of abuse survivors, practitioners, and researchers familiar with the impact of such abuse. The framework identifies abuse-related factors that contribute to harmful outcomes, and dimensions of harm associated with such acts. Implications of the conceptual framework are discussed in relation to professional education and practice guidelines, policy and prevention initiatives, and research needs.

Brackenridge, C. (2002). So what? Attitudes of the voluntary sector towards child protection in sports clubs. *Managing Leisure, 7*(2), 103-123.  
DOI:10.1080/13606710210139857

There is both growing concern about ethical standards in sport and also rapid expansion in the number of local and national schemes designed to encourage youth sports development. Child abuse in youth sport has become a 'moral panic' in British society but there is evidence of a child protection policy vacuum between national and club level. Sport club child protection schemes are rarely informed by the work of their respective national governing bodies but there is an almost complete absence of empirical data with which to support or challenge claims about child safety in voluntary sector sports clubs. The research reported addresses this knowledge gap. It was designed to explore the extent to which one English midlands county had made provision for child protection and to assess the main issues confronting the county in its efforts to enhance child protection in voluntary sport. Voluntary sector junior sports clubs ( n = 396) were sent a

postal survey; 129 responded. 19 junior sports focus groups and selected county officers and staff were invited to participate in group or individual interviews during the second half of 1999 (prior to the establishment of the NSPCC/ Sport England Child Protection in Sport Unit). This paper reports the survey and interview data from the voluntary clubs. Results show an extremely varied pattern of awareness of the main child protection issues in the various sports clubs. One common theme emerged, however: there was a clear misapprehension that children are safest amongst those whom they know best and most at risk from those currently outside their sports clubs. This view is firmly contradicted by research statistics on sources of child abuse. The paper argues that the unwillingness of club personnel to challenge their own assumptions is causally linked to a culture of complacency about child protection in voluntary sport.

Leahy, T., Pretty, G., & Tenenbaum, G. (2002) Prevalence of sexual abuse in organised competitive sport in Australia. *Journal of Sexual Aggression, 8*(2), 16-36.  
DOI:10.1080/13552600208413337

This article reports the first phase of a three-phase research programme investigating the prevalence and long-term sequelae associated with sexual abuse in a non-psychiatric sample of male and female Australian athletes. A cross-sectional, retrospective design, using a mailed survey, provided a quantitative assessment of sexual abuse prevalence in a national sample of elite athletes and a regional sample of club athletes. Results from the total sample (n = 370) revealed that 31% of female and 21% of male athletes reported experiencing sexual abuse at some time in their lives. Of these, 41% of females, and 29% of males had been sexually abused within the sports environment. It was also found that almost half, 46.4%, of the elite group reporting sexual abuse had been sexually abused by sports personnel. For the club group, this figure was 25.6%. Implications of these results and current initiatives for the prevention of sexual abuse of athletes in Australia are discussed.

Cense, M., & Brackenridge, C. H. (2001) Temporal and developmental risk factors for sexual harassment and abuse in sport. *European Physical Education Review*, 7(1), 61-79. DOI:10.1177/1356336X010071006

Recent revelations of sexual misconduct by sports coaches have challenged long-held beliefs in the educational value of sport, yet there is very little knowledge about the dynamics of sexual exploitation in sport upon which to base improvements in the practice of sports coaching or teaching. Earlier inductive research by Brackenridge in Britain established a set of hypothesized risk factors for sexual abuse in sport which have subsequently been reinforced by the results of survey research on elite athletes in Canada. However, risk analysis for sexual abuse in sport has not yet been framed within a temporal or developmental sequence, nor sufficiently differentiated between elite and recreational levels of sport, or between coach-initiated and peer-initiated abuse. This article reports selected findings from a Dutch qualitative study of 14 athletes who have survived sexual abuse in sport. The aim of the study was to identify risk factors that influence sexual abuse and harassment and to analyse which risks might be diminished through a prevention policy implemented by sport organizations. The Dutch study reinforces the earlier risk factor analyses but extends them by putting forward a preliminary temporal model of risk in sport that integrates offender behaviour with athlete and situational factors. On the basis of this model, suggestions are made to assist early diagnosis and prevention of sexual harassment and abuse by authority figures in sport.

Gallagher, B. (2000). The extent and nature of known cases of institutional child sexual abuse. *British Journal of Social Work*, 30(6), 795-817. DOI:10.1093/bjsw/30.6.795

The sexual abuse of children by persons who work with them - institutional abuse - is a focus of major concern among policy makers, practitioners and the public. Despite this, knowledge about it remains limited. This paper presents findings from a study of institutional abuse cases referred to social service departments or the police in eight local

authority areas. While such cases were relatively uncommon and constituted a small proportion of all child protection referrals, some involved large numbers of victims and abusers. Institutional abuse cases in the present study shared some characteristics with the majority of (intrafamilial) abuse cases, but there were also important differences, such as the proportion of male victims and the extent to which abuses used techniques of targeting and entrapment. Contrary to media representations, the institutional abuse reported here was not just a problem of children's homes, social work or the public sector, but occurred in a wide variety of settings and sectors and was perpetrated by a range of occupational groups. If all children are to be protected, then policy and practice measures to prevent abuse need to be directed towards a much wider range of institutions.

Trocme, N., & Schumaker, K. (1999). Reported child sexual abuse in Canadian schools and recreational facilities: Implications for developing effective prevention strategies. *Children and Youth Services Review, 21*(8), 621-642. DOI:10.1016/S0190-7409(99)00043-2

Examined the relative risk of child and adolescent sexual abuse in community settings (schools and recreational facilities) compared to abuse at home. An analysis of 2 Canadian data bases on investigations of suspected child sexual abuse show that less than 3% of child protection investigations and less than 4% of police investigations involved allegations made against school or recreational personnel. An empirical review of the effectiveness of sexual abuse prevention strategies targeting these settings concludes that strategies, such as limiting children's community activities or limiting staff student, interactions were more likely to increase risk of victimization. Many screening techniques were also considered problematic because they had limited effectiveness and may have created false expectations of safety. Sexual abuse prevention education programs show promise to the extent that they support child disclosures. It is concluded that improved reporting and investigation procedures remain the most promising area

for protecting children in the community, although staff resistance to child centered protocols may be an obstacle in some jurisdictions.

Brackenridge, C. H. (1998). Healthy sport for healthy girls? The role of parents in preventing sexual abuse in sport. *Sport, Education and Society*, 3(1), 59–78.  
DOI:10.1080/1357332980030104

Sexual abuse has only recently been recognised as a problem within sport [Brackenridge, C. (1994) Fair play or fair game? Child sexual abuse in sport organisations, *International Review of the Sociology of Sport*, 29(3), pp. 287–299] and, as yet, little is known about the contexts in which girls might be at greater or lesser risk of experiencing such crimes. This paper explores the assumptions which parents make about their daughters' health and safety in the sports coaching context in relation to Hellestedt's 'Parental Involvement Continuum' [Hellestedt, J. (1987) The coach/parent/athlete relationship, *The Sport Psychologist*, 1 pp. 151–160]. Data from a study of 93 sets of parents of elite young sportswomen are presented which show what much mothers and fathers know about their daughters' coaching setting. The results are used to evaluate the extent to which parents' assumptions about sport as a healthy place for healthy girls are warranted. Research on sexual abuse prevention in day care settings [Finkelhor, D. & Williams, L.M. (1988) *Nursery Crimes: Sexual Abuse in Day Care* (London, Sage)] is explored as a possible template for parents who wish to contribute to the prevention of sexual abuse of girls in sport.

Volkwein, K., Schnell, F., Sherwood, D., & Livezey, A. (1997). Sexual harassment in sport: Perceptions and experiences of American female student-athletes, *International Review for the Sociology of Sport*, 32(3), 283–295.  
DOI:10.1177/1012690297032003005

Sexual harassment at institutions of higher learning is not a new phenomenon, but discussions of this problem in the sporting arena and in related research are still scarce.

Most studies have focused on student–instructor relationships, while few analyses have analysed coach–athlete relationships. This study examines American female college athletes' experiences with, and emotional responses to, sexual harassment in sport by coaches. The findings clearly demonstrate that the athletic world does not differ with regard to occurrences of sexual harassment compared to other social domains. Thus, in order to guarantee a safe learning environment in athletics for all participants, it is necessary to formulate clear guidelines, set up educational workshops and implement intervention programs.

MacAuley, D. (1996). [Child abuse in sport](#). *British Journal of Sports Medicine*, 30(4), 275–276. DOI:10.1136/bjism.30.4.275-a

Child abuse also occurs in sport. We may be shocked, horrified, and embarrassed, but it happens. On reflection, it is perhaps not surprising when we consider the opportunity for unsupervised contact with young children but it is a betrayal of trust that can have devastating and lasting effect. Children in sport are open to both physical and emotional abuse, but recent events have focused our attention on the even more emotive issue of child sexual abuse.

Brackenridge, C. H. (1994). Fair play of fair game? Child sexual abuse in sport organizations. *International Review for the Sociology of Sport*, 29(3), 287–300. DOI:10.1177/101269029402900304

Feminist perspectives in sport research have helped to problematise gender relations in sport and to highlight dominating behaviours such as sexual harassment. It is argued that the independent status of many voluntary sport organisations helps to protect coaches from the scrutiny of certain state regulations and, consequently, offers easy targets for individuals with sexual motives. The paper sets the problem of child sexual

abuse in sport within this broad context of organisational accountability and raises issues for both research and professional practice.

Donnelly, P., & Young, K. (1988). [The construction and confirmation of identity in sport subcultures](#). *Sociology of Sport Journal*, 5(3), 223-240. DOI:10.1123/ssj.5.3.223

It is usual in interactionist research to view the process of socialization into subcultures as, in part, a process of identity formation. However, we prefer to examine this process, at least in the case of sport subcultures, as a far more deliberate act of identity construction. That is, through a variety of means, the most significant of which is modeling, the neophyte member begins to deliberately adopt mannerisms, attitudes, and styles of dress, speech, and behavior that he or she perceives to be characteristic of established members of the subculture. Such perceptions among neophytes are usually far from being completely accurate and are frequently stereotypical. Thus, it is necessary to examine also the complementary process of identity confirmation in order to conduct a more complete examination of socialization into a sub-cultural career. These processes, and neophyte mistakes emerging in them, are examined with respect to ethnographies of climbers and rugby players conducted by the authors, together with supporting material from studies of other sports-related aspects of ethnographic research.