



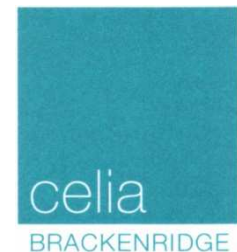
Sport – respect your rights

Harassment and abuse in sport: What research tells us

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Overview

- Health warning
- Types
- Frequency
- Risks
- Knowledge summary and gaps



Types

- Wide variation in meanings
abuse, harassment, offending, exploitation,
victimisation, **violence**, ...
- Non-accidental harm to athletes
- *'violence ... is never justifiable -
violence ... is entirely preventable'* [Kofi Annan, 2006]
- Moral imperatives linked to human rights



Types cont.

- Discrimination - sex, race or sexual orientation
- Sexual violence (harassment and abuse) including rape
- Physical maltreatment:
 - Overtraining/forced exertion
 - Playing while injured
 - Peer aggression
 - Parental maltreatment
 - Doping/drug abuse
 - Alcohol abuse
- Psychological and emotional abuse
- Bullying and hazing
- Neglect
- Child labour and trafficking





Frequency

- Scientific priorities from a review of sport literature (N=466 items)
[Safe Sport International, 2014]
 - sexual harassment and abuse (undifferentiated) (n=132, 28%)
 - homophobia (n=86, 18%)
 - sexual harassment (n=58, 12%)
 - sexual abuse (n=49, 11%)
 - bullying (n=39, 8%)
 - hazing (n=39, 8%)


BUT ...

- Different studies measure different things

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- Canada:
 - 27% of female and male student athletes had experienced some form of sexual harassment [Holman, 1995]
 - 22% had experienced sexual intercourse with an authority figure in sport - 9% forced sexual intercourse [Kirby and Greaves, 1996]
 - Australia: [Leahy et al., 2002]
 - 31% of the female and 21% of the male athletes had experienced sexual abuse. Of these, 41% of females and 29% of males had been sexually abused within the sports environment
 - Denmark: [Toftegaard Nielsen, 2004]
 - 160 court cases about sport and sexual abuse
 - 2/3 of victims were boys (mean age 12 years)
 - Individual sport (71%) and recreational sport (90%)
 - All perpetrators were men but 37% of all sport coaches in Denmark are women

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- Czech Republic (coach/athlete relationships): [Fasting and Knorre, 2005]
 - slapped on the face, head or ears by a member of sport support staff (n=25, 11%)
 - had observed unwanted physical contact between a female athlete and her coach (n=62, 36%)
 - knew about any female athletes who had had a sexual relationship with their coach (n=169, 74%)
 - had heard rumours about sexual relationships between a female athlete and her coach (n=198, 86%)
 - Japan: [Kumayasu et. al, 2005]

Women sport/P.E. students much more tolerant in their perceptions of sexual harassment than their non-sport PE student counterparts

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- UK: [Alexander et al., 2011]
 - Online survey of 6,000+ UK students (aged 18–22 yrs) of their experiences of organised sport up to 16 yrs, and 89 telephone interviews
 - Some findings -
 - high levels of emotional harm (75%) – including humiliation, being sworn at, negative self and body image, and self harm
 - high levels of sexual harassment (29%)
 - peers the most common perpetrator
 - most said this negative culture was normal



Risks [Brackenridge, 2001]

- Non-accidental acts - of omission or commission
- Arising from individual and/or cultural factors
- Always rooted in power relations
- Most often linked to gender
- Perpetrator risk factors – authority figures and athletes
- Organisational risk factors – both structural and cultural
- Elite sport - where potential gains and losses are greatest

Knowledge summary

| VICTIM | PERPETRATOR | |
|---------|---|---|
| | Coach | Athlete |
| Coach | (Not studied) | Harassment, usually by males on females. |
| Athlete | Focus of research: mainly, but not always, male coaches but both female <i>and</i> male victims. Increased risk at elite level. | Major concerns emerging about bullying, hazing and homophobic discrimination. |



Knowledge gaps

- Geography? [Hartill and Lang, 2014]
- Type?
- Victim status and gender relations? [Hartill, 2010]
- Policy effectiveness?
- Monitoring and evaluation !



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