

WORKSTREAM 1 – Policy framework

Action 2: describe main types of interpersonal violence

Interpersonal violence

The intentional use of physical force or power, by an individual or small group of individuals, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community, that either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, maldevelopment or deprivation. It can occur online, be perpetrated by different actors and take different forms.

Child abuse/maltreatment

Child abuse or maltreatment constitutes all forms of physical and/or emotional ill-treatment, sexual abuse, neglect or negligent treatment or commercial or other exploitation, resulting in actual or potential harm to the child's health, survival, development or dignity in the context of a relationship of responsibility, trust or power.

Sexual violence (includes sexual harassment)

Any sexual act, attempt to obtain a sexual act, unwanted sexual comments or advances, or acts to traffic, or otherwise directed against a person's sexuality using coercion, by any person regardless of their relationship to the victim, in any setting or environment. The different forms of sexual violence can occur both online and in person.

Physical violence

Physical violence is an act attempting to cause, or resulting in, pain and/or physical injury, and it includes beating, burning, kicking, punching, biting, maiming or killing, or the use of objects or weapons.

Psychological violence

Psychological violence (abuse) involves the regular and deliberate use of a range of words and non-physical actions with the purpose to manipulate, hurt, weaken or frighten a person mentally and emotionally; and/or distort, confuse or influence a person's thoughts and actions within their everyday lives, changing their sense of self and harming their wellbeing. In sport, it can also take the form of non-physical actions that cause physical or psychological harm to the athlete. Psychological violence can occur both online and in person and in different forms.

Neglect

Neglect includes a failure to provide a vulnerable athlete with an adequate standard of nutrition, medical care, clothing, shelter or supervision to the extent that the health or development of the athlete is significantly impaired or placed at serious risk. An athlete is neglected if they are left uncared for over long periods of time or abandoned.

Hazing

Any humiliating, degrading, abusive, or dangerous behaviour of a senior teammate towards a young athlete, which does not contribute to either the athlete's positive development but is required to be accepted as part of a team, regardless of the young athlete's willingness to participate. Hazing can also consist of psychological, physical, or sexual violence.

Bullying

Bullying can be defined as intentional and aggressive behaviour occurring repeatedly against a victim where there is a real or perceived power imbalance, and where the victim feels vulnerable and powerless to defend himself or herself. The unwanted behaviour is hurtful: it can be physical, including hitting, kicking and the destruction of property; verbal, such as teasing, insulting and threatening; or relational, through the spreading of rumours and exclusion from a group. Bullying can occur both online and in person and in different forms. Online bullying is often referred to as cyber bullying.

Grooming

The use of a variety of manipulative and controlling techniques towards a vulnerable athlete; in a range of interpersonal and social settings, to establish trust or normalise sexually harmful behaviour, with the overall aim of facilitating exploitation and/or prohibiting exposure. It can manifest itself online or in person.

TIP:

Look for more information: [IOC consensus statement: interpersonal violence and safeguarding in sport.](#)