

WORKSTREAM 4 – Education and training

Action 1: train the Safeguarding Officer (SO)

When you decide as a sport club to appoint an SO, the next important step is to offer SO a qualitative training. However, in many countries there is no training available for Safeguarding Officers yet.

This document presents a best practice from Flanders (Belgium). In Flanders, future Safeguarding Officers can follow training that consists of 2 parts. It is not possible to follow the second part without having completed the first part.

Training Safeguarding Officer

Part 1 (1 evening): introduction to safeguarding in sports + flag system

What is covered in this training?

- Basic insights into interpersonal violence in sport
- Being able to assess the seriousness of an incident. In Flanders, they do this using the flag system. A tool that can be used by sport clubs to indicate the seriousness of a case by means of a green (no interpersonal violence), yellow (mild interpersonal violence), red (serious interpersonal violence) or black (very serious interpersonal violence) flag.

Part 2 (1 evening): Safeguarding Officer's training

What is covered in this training?

1) Role of the Safeguarding Officer

Task description:

- What does SO do?
- What does the SO NOT do?

2) Profiling as a Safeguarding Officer

Communication about your role as a SO.

3) Follow-up protocol: step-by-step plan for handling incidents

What steps do you take when handling an incident?

4) Tips for good registration and reporting

5) Interview techniques

- Guideline for assessment interview
- Role playing and practicing

TIP: Ask your sport federation or National Olympic Committee whether such training exists in your country.