

WORKSTREAM 5 – Minimum operating standards

Action 2: define safeguarding procedures regarding transportation of sport participants

Transporting underage athletes to and from training, competitions or training camps can pose risks, particularly related to sexual interpersonal violence. It is essential for clubs to recognise these risks and establish clear agreements with staff, parents and guardians.

These agreements should be included in the club’s internal regulations to ensure accessibility and transparency. Regular communication, through various channels, with staff, athletes, and their families helps to reinforce these rules and awareness.

This document offers suggested guidelines that club boards can adapt to their specific context, taking into account national and local legislation, the nature of the sport and the needs of their athletes. The advice provided is directional and should be discussed and tailored.

Possible risk situations when transporting athletes

Research shows that in cases of sexual interpersonal violence by adults toward underage or vulnerable athletes, transportation can present a risk. This often occurs as part of a grooming process, where the perpetrator seeks increasing opportunities to be alone with the victim and gradually gains control. They may convince parents or guardians to allow them to provide transport, under the guise of helping. The car then often becomes a setting for sexual abuse.

Risk	Possible guidelines	Advice
Transportation of minor or vulnerable athletes by a club employee for training sessions	<p>Agreements with parents/guardians on transporting children to and from training sessions</p> <p>Agreements with staff on transporting athletes to and from training sessions.</p>	<p>It is advisable to establish that parents are initially responsible for transporting their child to and from training.</p> <p>Agree with staff members that they may only transport athletes to and from practice in emergency situations and that they must coordinate with a board member beforehand.</p>
Transportation of minor or vulnerable athletes by a club employee for competitions	<p>Agreements with parents/guardians on transporting children to and from competitions.</p>	<p>Since arranging transport for children to competition can be challenging, clubs can implement a rotation system where parents take turns driving small groups</p>

