

12th ICCE Global Coach Conference - Best Practice Summary

Stream 7: Coaching Ethics / Integrity (Safe Sport Initiatives)

Title: Safeguarding Sport in Singapore – A Multi-Agency Collaborative Effort

Abstract

The recent series of international and local revelations of sexual misconduct cases in sport has triggered one of the biggest risks and potential deterrent in sport development and participation. To safeguard its sporting community against harassment and abuse, SportSG expended efforts in areas of awareness, prevention, incident management and disciplinary processes. A Safe Sport Commission was formed to provide guidance and direct resources to operationalise continuous safeguarding efforts.

Awareness: A multi-channel approach was adopted to highlight the definition and importance of Safe Sport and used to create outreach to stakeholders – athletes, coaches, officials and sport organisations. It started off with focus group discussions amongst stakeholders and progressed to a Safe Sport Forum attended by the key sporting organisations and partners within Singapore. Case studies were also shared amongst the Code of Ethics workshops with coaches. Plenary sessions on Safe Sports were also shared to over hundreds of participants at the CoachSG Conference 2018 and Youth Athlete Development Conference 2018. Videos on the events were also shared on social media. Other ongoing efforts include placement of Safe Sport posters within the sport facilities and loading of content on e-learning mobile application (ULeap).

Prevention: To prevent unsuitable candidates from assuming positions of authority and encouraging vigilance in safeguarding, requests were made for National Sports Associations to develop their commitment statements towards Safe Sport and nomination of Safeguarding Officers for training in Safe Sport practices. Review and development of Code of Conduct/ Behaviour lends greater clarity to the expected behaviours exhibited by various positions within the sporting community.

Incident Management: It involves a reporting and responding process. An implementation of a Safe Sport hotline and email were crucial in providing victims with an avenue to seek help. Templates and processes were implemented to guide the reporting and responding processes. Safeguarding Officers were trained in responding and provision of support to the victims and families.

Disciplinary Process: It is important to ensure a framework which consists of fair and independent disciplinary processes are implemented in adherence to legal statutes and principles of natural justice. This would include benchmarking of sanctions against other professional bodies and disciplinary

precedents. Multi-parties' consultation were also made to effect sanctions within the sporting community to prevent organisation-hopping by individuals.

This presentation would include sharing of milestone achievements and showcase of resources/initiatives developed with the hope of benefiting sport organisations with intents on embarking on similar Safe Sport initiatives.

Biography of Author(s)

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Syahirah is with the Coaching Industry Development team under CoachSG, Sport Singapore. She represented Sport Singapore at the 2018 Safe Sport Conference in Madrid and since then, has been driving the Safe Sport efforts in Singapore. Her other portfolio involves implementing recognition programmes for coaches and has developed a Team Singapore Coach branding and Roll of Honour for Coaches launched in 2017. She was previously part of the Singapore ASEAN Para Games Organising Committee and SEA Games Organising Committee.

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Lynnette Chng leads the Coaching Industry Development Team in CoachSG, that drives the employment-related policies and develops partnerships to raise the profile of coaches in Singapore. She had attended the NSSU-ICCE Coach Developer Programme in 2016 and obtained a Graduate Diploma in Coaching from the University of Queensland, Australia. Prior to joining SportSG in 2009, her work experience includes specialization in human resource, membership marketing and communications in the hospitality industry. She enjoys playing badminton, floorball and volleyball recreationally.