



International
Olympic
Committee

Olympic Agenda 2020+5 recommendation 5

Further strengthen safe sport and the protection of clean athletes

Action plan to strengthen safe sport/safeguarding across the Olympic Movement to protect the physical and mental well-being of athletes

May 2021

1. Background

The IOC’s mission is to place athletes at the heart of the Olympic Movement, and Olympic Agenda 2020+5 has set the strategic roadmap including Recommendation 5: Further strengthen safe sport and the protection of clean athletes. The proposed action plan has been written following a consultation process with internal and external stakeholders and details how the IOC endeavors to implement safe sport considerations discussed in recommendation 5 of the Olympic Agenda 2020+5. It furthermore seeks to help protect the physical and mental well-being of athletes.

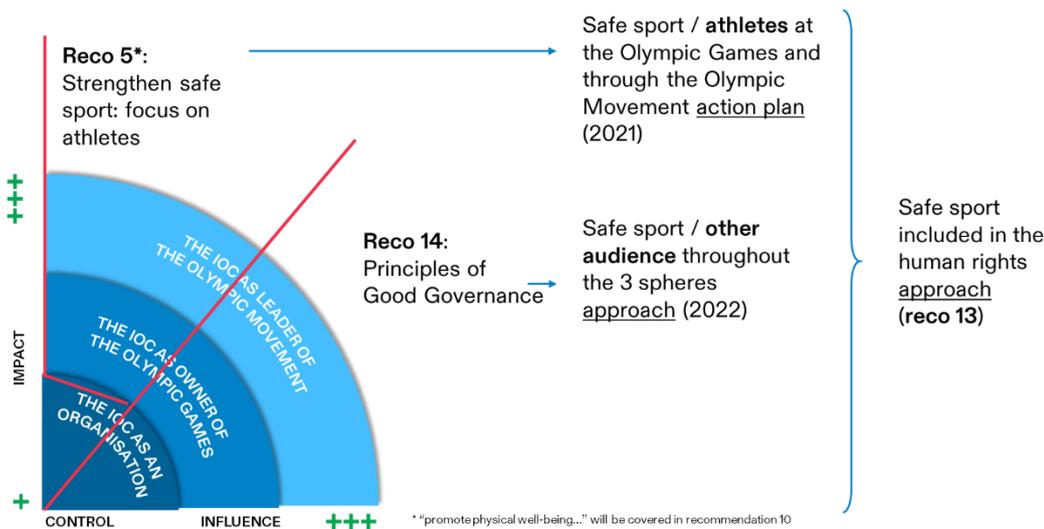
The proposed action plan is aligned with the Athletes’ Rights and Responsibilities Declaration, which outlines a common set of aspirational rights and responsibilities for athletes within the Olympic Movement. This Declaration aspires to promote the ability and opportunity of athletes to practice sport and compete without being subject to discrimination, and the protection of mental and physical health, including a safe competition and training environment and to the protection from abuse and harassment.

It is further based upon the concerted effort of International Olympic Committee (IOC) over the past twenty years to address the issue of harassment and abuse in sport. Initiatives by the IOC have included the publication of the IOC Consensus Statement on Sexual Harassment and Abuse in Sport (2007), the IOC Consensus Statement: harassment and abuse (non-accidental violence) in sport (2016) and the IOC Toolkit for IFs and NOCs related to creating and implementing policies and procedures to safeguard athletes from harassment and abuse in sport (2017). It has further included the implementation of the IOC Games-Time safeguarding framework at each edition of the Olympic and Youth Olympic Games since 2016, and the development of educational tools and initiatives.

The proposed action plan places athletes as its core target with special focus on vulnerable people, due to their sexual orientation, gender, race, ethnicity, (dis)ability, age etc., including persons who are minors (every person below the age of 18 years unless, under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier). The primary goal is to build the capacity of key stakeholders such as IFs and NOCs to foster safe sporting environments across the Olympic Movement.

2. Strategic framework

Recommendation 5 of Olympic Agenda 2020+5 calls for the further strengthening of safe sport. It is focused on the physical and psychological well-being and safe environment for athletes. Safeguarding of other populations like the Olympic Movement stakeholders, such as the International Federations, National Olympic Committees and IOC recognised organisations – as part of the implementation of the reviewed basic principles of good governance, will be covered by recommendation 14 under the principles of good governance. Safe sport will also be part of recommendation 13 – Continue to lead by example in corporate citizenship, in the larger framework of human rights. It should therefore encompass the three spheres of responsibility* of the IOC and provide actionable objectives against these spheres.



* Moral responsibility

3. Safe sport for athletes: objectives for 2021-2024

Six objectives are set forth in this action plan for the IOC as leader of the Olympic Movement and IOC as owner of the Olympic Games (objectives of recommendation 5 are indicated in bold. The action plan detailed below is an implementation of the Recommendation 5 of Olympic Agenda 2020+5:

3.1. The IOC as leader of the Olympic Movement

Strategic intent for 2030: The IOC to inspire and support the Olympic Movement in fostering safe sport and athlete well-being worldwide.

1. **The IOC to implement the International Safeguarding Officer in Sport Certificate:**
 - The IOC will encourage IFs, NOCs and OCOGs to send at least one representative to take a safeguarding officer in sport certification course, such as the International Certificate: Safeguarding Officer in Sport which was launched in April 2021 and is set to have the first cohort starting in September 2021.
2. **The IOC to support the implementation of safeguarding policies and procedures amongst all stakeholders**
 - The IOC to review the safe sport for athletes' provisions included in the Olympic Charter with a view to strengthening them.
 - The IOC to provide an updated version of the "IOC Guidelines for IFs and NOCs related to creating and implementing a harassment and abuse policy" (EB approved 2 June 2016) to IFs and NOCs.
 - The IOC to update the "IOC Athlete Safeguarding Toolkit for IFs and NOCs", to ensure it reflects new developments in the field of safeguarding in sport: this includes specific provisions on digital, minors, informed by the experiences of survivors, and adapted to local context.
 - The IOC to provide the "IOC Athlete Safeguarding Toolkit for IFs and NOCs" and encourage IFs, NOCs and OCOGs to adopt it in their policies and procedures.
 - The IOC to encourage and support IFs and NOCs to monitor the implementation of their safeguarding policies and procedures.
 - The IOC to conduct an annual review of progress of the "IOC Guidelines for IFs and NOCs related to creating and implementing a harassment and abuse policy".
3. **The IOC to encourage Olympic Movement constituents to establish a Safeguarding Officer position within their organisations and to fill such position with an officer certified through the international safeguarding officer in sport certificate**
 - The person would have to be certified through an appropriate course or certificate.
 - This International Safeguarding Officer in Sport certificate course will equip those working in the field of safeguarding athletes of all ages from non-accidental violence, harassment and abuse in sport, with the knowledge, skills and confidence they need to fulfil their role as the Safeguarding Officer/Focal Point for their sport organisation.
4. **The IOC to support NOCs through Olympic Solidarity to deliver safeguarding education for their national stakeholders (athletes and entourage) through webinars, courses and international scholarships:**
 - The IOC to give access to resources and expertise on safeguarding and mental health, to further the development of competencies within IFs, NOCs and NFs. This may include educational resources and research material. Topics would include aspects of investigation and intelligence gathering, support to victims, mental health, athlete well-being and procedures and processes. This should encourage IFs, NOCs and NFs, where possible to create their own educational materials to promote safe sport. When this is not possible, to provide existing online tools that can be used and adapted by the IFs, NOCs and NFs to their context.
 - The IOC to share best practices i.e. through webinars, seminars, conferences, Toolkits including the IOC Mental Health and IOC Athlete Safeguarding Toolkit, and by exploring ways to set up a resource library.
 - The IOC to promote safe access to sport for athletes and the protection and promotion of elite athlete mental health through its communication campaigns and advocacy.

- The IOC to encourage NOCs and IFs and other stakeholders (e.g. training centres) to communicate from grassroots to elite athletes on the topic of safe sport and mental health.
- The IOC to foster relationships with expert groups and explore partnerships on safe sport.

3.2. The IOC as owner of the Olympic Games

Strategic intent for 2030: The IOC to ensure that the Olympic Games are at the forefront in the field of athlete safeguarding and well-being.

1. The IOC to promote that considerations for the safeguarding of athletes are included at every stage of the lifecycle of the Olympic Games and Youth Olympic Games:
 - The IOC to continue to provide NOC delegation leads and Chef de Missions with guidance concerning the safeguarding of athletes during Games-time. This will help define expected practice regarding athlete safeguarding at the Olympic Games and Youth Olympic Games. It will consider all aspects of the delegation's responsibility toward their athletes.
 - The IOC to hold an "IOC 2022 Consensus on Youth Athletes Competing at the Olympic Games and Other Elite-level Events" about age considerations, to support the development of recommendations related to the safeguarding of athletes who are minors and competing at the Olympic Games or Youth Olympic Games.
 - Within the safeguarding framework in place at Games-time (in its education and disciplinary provisions) and led by the IOC, the IOC to explore ways to develop a Games-time "Safe sport directory" that would support a coordinated response to any reported incidents of harassment and abuse during Games-time. Such directory would identify the designated NOC and IF lead contacts on safe sport as well as any procedures that NOCs/IFs have in place to deal with incidences that may arise.
 - The IOC to encourage the OCOGs and YOGOCs to partner with relevant public or private institutions to ensure the availability of efficient remedy for victims, i.e. through a transparent escalation process of complaints for the OCOG accredited people, between the OCOG, and responsible public authorities. In addition, for all the criminal aspects as far as the national criminal legislation applies, the OCOG needs to take all measures to facilitate the contact with the national law enforcement agencies.
 - The IOC to conduct periodic reviews of IOC Olympic Games-time and Youth Olympic Games-time policies to ensure that they are victim-centred, reflect best practice and include specific provisions for the protection of athletes (with specific attention towards athletes that are vulnerable due to their sexual orientation, gender, race, ethnicity, (dis)ability, age etc.).
2. The IOC to promote the values of safe sport amongst athletes and their entourage at the Olympic Games and Youth Olympic Games:
 - The IOC to reinforce existing safe sport educational programmes and initiatives at the Olympic Games and Youth Olympic Games to promote the values of safe sport amongst athletes and their entourage.
 - The IOC to make age-appropriate and inclusive educational programmes and initiatives available within the Olympic village and to NOCs for their athletes' delegation. The IOC shall ensure that all educational materials that are utilised during Games-time are suitably adapted to their target audiences (e.g. those who are minors).
 - The IOC to explore possible ways to collaborate with TOP partners for the promotion of safe sport at the Olympic Games and Youth Olympic Games.