## Child Protection Policy



While a safeguarding policy includes protections for everyone involved in your organisation and/or programming, child protection policies are also important for organisations that work directly with children. Even though sport programmes play a valuable role in the well-being of children, they can also be, if the proper policies and procedures are not in place nor practiced, a place where children are abused, excluded or exploited.

Girls' greater vulnerability to violence in many settings amplifies this risk. This is why child protection policies, especially policies and processes in which the children themselves take part in the creation, are extremely important to ensure that a sport programme reaches its objectives of empowering youth and contributing to their well-being. If child protection is overlooked, then your sport programme is in danger of putting those very children in situations that could expose them to even more harm and negative experiences.

To ensure an atmosphere of child protection, their perspective must be at the centre of programme design, development and implementation. This means actively engaging with participants and creating spaces where they feel valued, can voice their concerns and needs without fear or judgement, and are connected to others who will help keep them safe and protected.

