

Safeguarding



Opportunities and challenges

Opportunities

- Sport and recreation - a vehicle for social change
- Creates connection, confidence, identity and a sense of belonging

Challenges

- Harmful and abusive beliefs and practices
- Sport and recreation environments can be exploited

Vision - a future where sport and recreation is always safe, and fair.





Family and sexual violence in Aotearoa

The Centre for Family Violence and Sexual Violence Prevention

- 35% of women and 12% of men are sexually assaulted in their lifetime
- By the age of 19, at least 18% of young people have experienced sexual violence
- People with a disability and our Rainbow community experience all forms of harm and abuse more than others
- Sexual violence alone costs us as a country each year an estimated \$6.9 billion with an additional cost to employers of \$368 million

Snapshot of family violence and sexual violence prevalence in Aotearoa New Zealand - Centre for Family Violence and Sexual Violence Prevention, formerly Te Puna Aonui



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Abuse in sport in Australia

A study among Australian adults found 82% had experienced one or more forms of abuse in sport as a child?

Psychological, Physical, and Sexual Violence Against Children in Australian Community Sport: Frequency, Perpetrator, and Victim Characteristics



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**Safeguarding is everything
we do that protects and
promotes people's well-being**



Safeguarding is about people

Safeguarding is often misunderstood. People often think of safeguarding as a set of policies focused on children or on responding to incidents but in reality, it is much broader than that.

It is:

- Treating everyone with care and respect regardless of who they are or where they come from
 - Children and young people, adults at risk, athletes, volunteers, coaches, officials, staff, administrators, supporters
 - It's people of all ages, ethnicities, religions, genders and sexualities
- Activities and environments that are safe and free from harm or abuse That means participant-centred
 - That means participant centered approaches
 - Safe practices
 - Challenging and changing practices that are unsafe or no longer meet people's needs



Safeguarding is about people

- Everyone understanding the expectations, and their responsibilities
 - Clear policies and standards of behaviour
 - Consistent messaging to reinforce our obligations
 - Targeted education and support for each function of our organisations
- Responding as early as possible when harm or abuse occurs
 - This means clear and accessible pathways to report and resolve all types of concerns and issues that uphold everyone's mana
 - Providing the right support based on the needs of those that require it

It is the belief that the health and wellbeing of people matters above all else





Why we need safeguarding

Safeguarding builds trust

- Parents and caregivers trust their children will be safe.
- Participants trust they will be respected.
- Communities trust that their values will be upheld

Safeguarding sets the foundation that allows us to succeed





What are we safeguarding from

- harm to adults
- child abuse (physical, emotional and sexual), and child neglect
- Bullying
- Harassment
- Intimidation
- Discrimination
- Retaliation and victimisation
- Sexually harmful behaviour
- violence



Why safeguarding matters

**“Take care of our children.
Take care of what they hear,
take care of what they see,
take care of what they feel.
For how the children grow,
so will be the shape of Aotearoa”**

Dame Whina Cooper

www.muma.co.nz



Why safeguarding is needed

1,493

common assaults against children

7,014

serious assaults against children

1,833

aggravated sexual assaults against children



What influences the effectiveness of safeguarding?

Individual

- Beliefs and behaviours shaped by life experiences
- What is tolerated and what is punished
- Those who hold power have the greatest influence on us

Whānau and community

- Reinforce positive and negative beliefs
- Can protect but can also harm

Organisations

- Culture signaled in everyday decisions, behaviours, and values
- What is prioritised
- ‘Power over’ vs ‘power with’

Wider society

- Media – social and mainstream
- Economic pressures
- Historical inequities and discrimination



Safeguarding is a collective responsibility

Ehara taku toa i te toa takitahi,
engari he toa takitini

My strength is not that of
an individual, but is the
strength of the many





Safeguarding is a collective responsibility

Everyone influences safeguarding

- Parents, caregivers and spectators
- Team-mates and group peers
- Coaches and instructors
- Club and group leaders
- Communities
- Organisations
- Govt agencies





Safeguarding is a collective responsibility

Accountability strengthens safeguarding

Effective safeguarding requires

- Shared responsibility – it doesn't sit with just one person
- Continuous learning – more than just one a year training or a social media post at the start of the season
- A growth mindset – mistakes will happen but we learn and evolve together





The role of the Commission

The Commission works alongside the sector and support Four safeguarding through being a:

- **Standard setter** - Define what good safeguarding looks like
- **Capability builder** - Strengthen knowledge, skills and confidence across all layers
- **System connector** - connect the system so safeguarding is coordinated and effective
- **Sense maker** - help the sector move from reactive responses to proactive prevention

Our goal is to strengthen the conditions that allow safeguarding to thrive across the whole system.



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**“When it comes to integrity,
leadership is everything”**



The role of leaders

Safeguarding effectively relies on:

- **Capability** - Clear expectations, training and role modelling
- **Confidence** - Understanding our role, how to act, and how to call out bad behaviour
- **Capacity** - adequate resourcing, systems and time to improve

Leaders shape culture through everyday choices and set the tone for the entire sector.



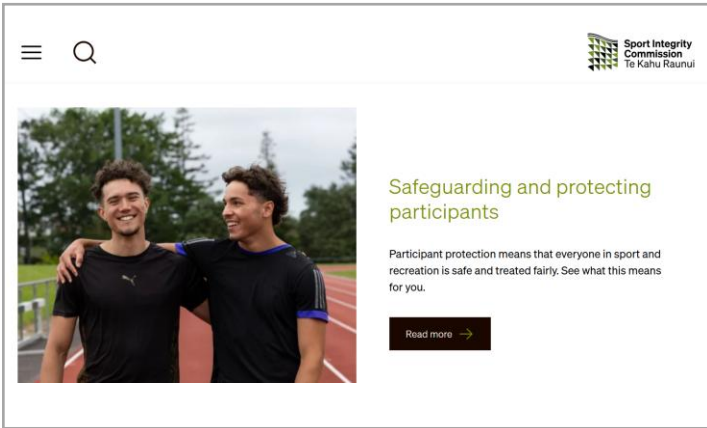
He waka eke noa

A canoe which we are all in with no exception

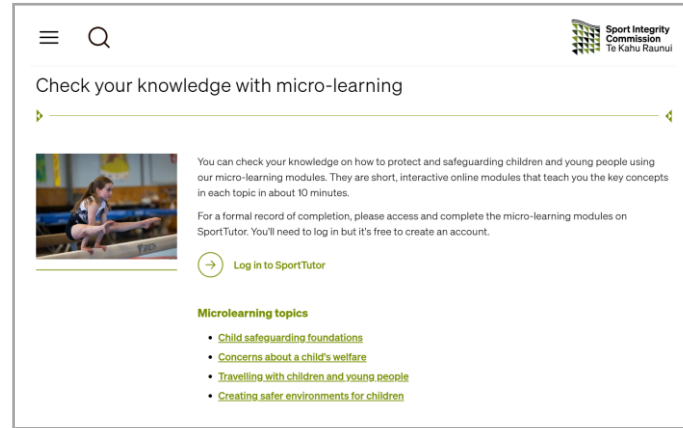
The future of safeguarding in Aotearoa doesn't sit with any single person, community or organisation.
It sits with all of us.

Support

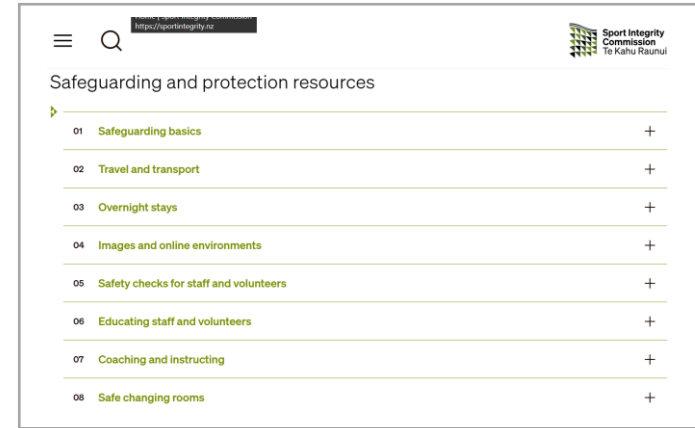
**Information
Commission
website**



**Learning
Online courses
and modules**



**Templates
Policies, guides
and checklists**



Call to action questions

In your role, what can you influence to help make safeguarding effective across the sport and recreation sector and wider society?

What steps are you going to take after this Wānanga that will support your organisation and its people to build a safeguarding culture?

