Project CARE: Professional Athletes’ Childhood Experiences

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The World Players Association

Child athletes: unique risks, unique rights

Existing international standards

Project CARE

Timeline

The Survey

Sports represented

Challenges

Project CARE: The Team
The World Players Association

#WORLDPLAYERSUNITED
The World Players Association

I. VOICE
Build the power of the player association movement

II. DIGNITY
Advance the rights of players in world sport

III. HUMANITY
Embed the human rights of all involved in the delivery of sport
Sport must commit both to international standards of child protection and to respecting the internationally-recognised rights of all athletes in order to ensure adequate safeguarding of children in sport.

This requires a significant institutional and cultural shift in sport, as fundamental as the recognition of the very identity of the child athlete, who should be seen as a child first, and athlete second. Yet, too often the former is sacrificed to the latter.
Existing international standards

CRC, 1989
UNGP, 2011
SAFEGUARDS, 2014
WORLD PLAYERS, 2017
Project CARE (Census of Athlete Rights Experiences) aims to ensure the rights of child athletes are promoted and protected throughout the world of sport.

World Players and select affiliates are partnering with Loughborough University on a 2-year pilot project (Jan 2019-Dec 2020) to study the childhood experiences in organised sport of professional athletes affiliated with World Players.

The study will address the lack of data on the experiences of child athletes and the need for a global standardized measure, enabling more reliable comparisons among studies and countries over time. Its findings will inform recommendations to sports bodies, governments and player associations about making sport safer for kids.

SURVEY TARGET RESPONSES: 4.000 PLAYERS.

Future plans: Extend and expand CARE survey in additional countries, sporting traditions, and institutions to scale up impact.
PHASE 1: TRIAL RUN (SEP 2019 – OCT 2019)

• Survey beta-test: 30 athletes trial-run.
• Support services: Protocols developed for supporting players who take the survey include outreach local free local support services and self-care resources, as well as affiliate services.

PHASE 2: PILOT (NOV 2019 – MAR 2020)

• Distribution: Survey is hosted on Qualtrics, a secure and robust online platform. Affiliates will share the link with their members (via email, messaging platform, etc.).
PHASE 3: ADVOCACY (APR 2020 - DEC 2020)

- **Publication**: A final report of findings across all respondents will be published by August 2020. Loughborough University may include anonymized and aggregated findings in an academic journal article as well at a later date, according to review and publishing cycles.

- **Recommendations**: The report will be followed by a series of advocacy meetings with affiliates, relevant sports bodies and governments to discuss recommendations and next steps.
THE SURVEY

Reviewed by + 30 people among athletes, child rights experts, sports governing bodies, partner organizations.

Professional athlete part of player association and adults (+ 18 years old)

Anonymized data: Loughborough University Ethics Committee

Access to free, accessible local support services.
THE SURVEY
SECTIONS

ABOUT YOU – DEMOGRAPHICS
YOUR RIGHTS
WELLBEING AND DEVELOPMENT
POWER, PARTICIPATION AND VOICE

VIOLENCE
(PHYSICAL AND EMOTIONAL)

VIOLENCE
(SEXUAL HARASSMENT, ABUSE AND EXPLOITATION)

HELP AND PROTECTION

ABOUT CURRENT SPORTING PERFORMANCE
ABOUT CURRENT WELL-BEING
### Sports represented

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Football</td>
<td><strong>WE ENCOURAGE INCLUSIVE AND DIVERSE PARTICIPATION OF PLAYERS ACCORDING TO GENDER, AGE, CAREER STAGE, ETHNIC AND RACIAL BACKGROUND, LOCATION, INDIGENOUS IDENTITY AND SEXUAL ORIENTATION.</strong></td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Cricket</td>
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<td>Rugby</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Baseball</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Australian Football</td>
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Challenges

- Survey size and anonymity
- Affiliate engagement
- Distribution
- Access to support services
The team

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Q&A
Thank You!

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