Presentation of the IMOCA safeguarding Reporting System

Protection against Violence / Safeguarding

The IMOCA Class is committed to combating all forms of violence and discrimination alongside World Sailing and the French Sailing Federation (FFVoile).

Within the IMOCA Class, we give the highest priority to the safety and well-being of our community. We are committed to providing a safe environment for all our members and stakeholders involved in our activities.

What do we mean when we talk about violence?

In its 2016 consensus statement[1], the International Olympic Committee (IOC) identified the following five types of violence:

Psychological abuse — Any unwelcome act such as confinement, isolation, verbal assault, humiliation, intimidation, infantilization, or any other treatment that may diminish a person's sense of identity, dignity and self-worth.

Physical abuse — Any deliberate and unwelcome act — such as punching, hitting, kicking, biting or burning — that results in physical trauma or injury. These actions may also include forced or inappropriate physical activities (e.g. training weights that are not appropriate for the athlete's age or physical condition; training while the athlete is injured or unwell; forced alcohol consumption or forced doping).

Sexual harassment — Any unwanted and unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature, whether verbal, non-verbal or physical. Sexual harassment may take the form of sexual abuse.

Sexual abuse — Any behaviour of a sexual nature, whether or not it involves contact or penetration, when consent is forced/manipulated, is not given, or cannot be given.

Neglect — In a sports context, this refers to a situation in which a supervisor or coach who is responsible for an athlete does not adequately ensure their safety or the preservation of their physical and psychological integrity.

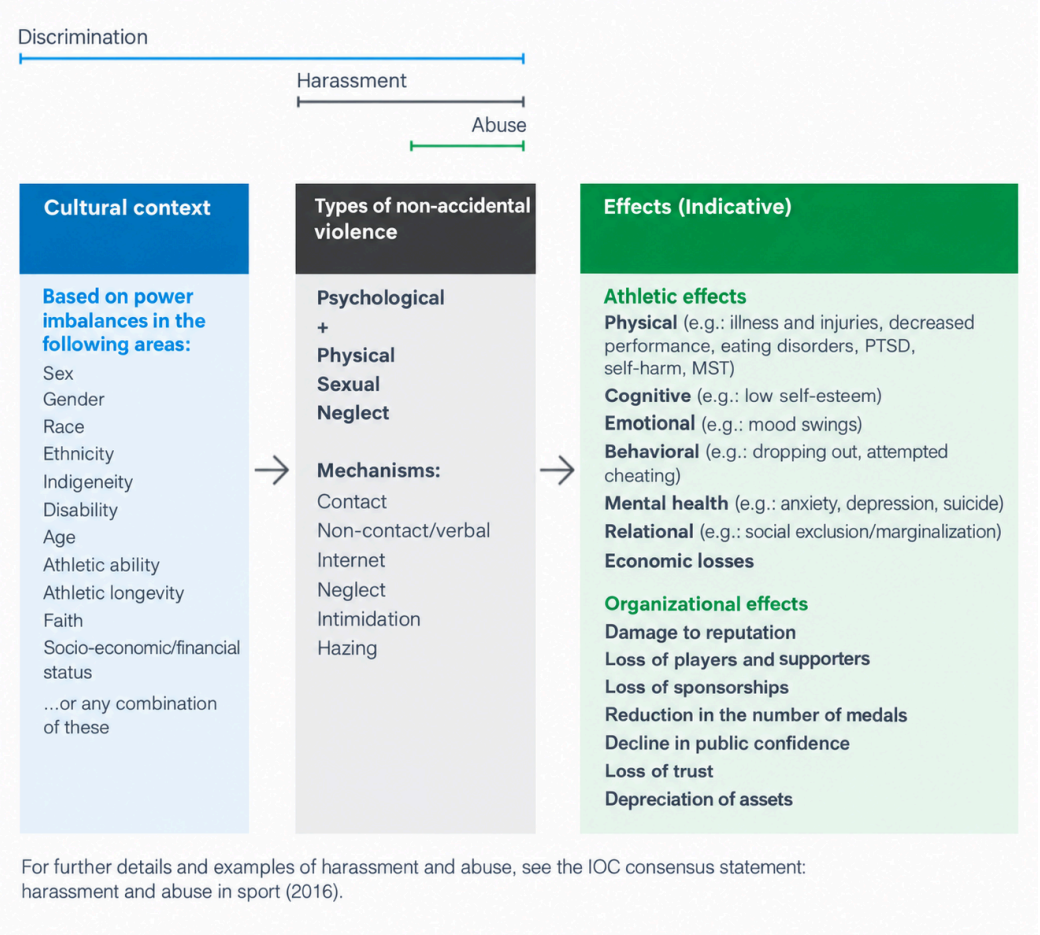
Harassment and abuse can be based on any grounds, including race, religion, colour, beliefs, ethnic origin, physical characteristics, sex, sexual orientation, age, disability, socio-economic status and athletic ability. They may involve a single incident or a series of incidents. They may occur in person or online. Harassment may be deliberate, unsolicited and coercive.

[1] Mountjoy, Margo, et al. "IOC Consensus Statement on Relative Energy Deficiency in Sport (RED-S): 2018 Update." *British Journal of Sports Medicine* 50, no. 17 (2016): 1019–1029. https://doi.org/10.1136/bjsports-2016-096121

These forms of violence are often the result of an abuse of authority, meaning the misuse of a person's position of influence, power or authority over another person (see diagram below). (Mountjoy et al. 2016)

In addition to these five forms of violence, we also include **exploitation**, which is defined by World Sailing as follow[2]s:

Exploitation: Exploitation occurs when a person exercises control over another person and/or their assets for their own "personal benefit" and without the person's fully informed consent. Exploitation may be financial or sexual.



Unfortunately, these forms of abuse exist throughout society, but the sports environment is particularly conducive to them due to several factors[3]:

- A high level of tolerance for physical violence and injuries
- Sometimes authoritarian leadership and an imbalance of power between coaches and athletes
- Incidents are often covered up in an attempt to avoid scandals
- Male dominance
- Physical contact is often required

[2] World Sailing. "Safeguarding." *World Sailing*. https://www.sailing.org/our-sport/welfare-safety/safeguarding/
[3] Council of Europe. "It's Time to Stop Child Sexual Abuse in Sport." *Human Rights Channel*. https://human-rights-channel.coe.int/stop-child-sexual-abuse-in-sport-en.html

- A reward system and a lack of oversight, particularly when athletes begin to excel and medals become the only thing that matters
- High-risk situations: changing rooms, showers, carpooling, and travel for training camps and competitions

As explained in the diagram above, these forms of violence often leave lifelong scars and can have terrible consequences for a victim's mental and physical health. (Mountjoy et al. 2016)

IMOCA: Zero Tolerance for Violence

For this reason, the IMOCA Class wishes to adopt a zero-tolerance approach to these forms of violence and encourages all its members to report any incident or behaviour that could fall within the forms of violence described above and that would be contrary to the values of the IMOCA Class.

Since February 2024, IMOCA has established, in partnership with the consulting firm EN GARDE, an independent unit dedicated to combating violence in offshore sailing. This unit is responsible for receiving reports and supporting victims, from speaking out through to their recovery.

Since 2026, the management of this unit has been entrusted to the association Colosse aux pieds d'argile.

The services provided by this unit include:

- Emotional and psychological support for victims and whistleblowers before and throughout all disciplinary, administrative and/or criminal proceedings
- Legal advice
- Referral to appropriate legal and medical professionals
- Coordination with the IMOCA, FFVoile and World Sailing disciplinary bodies

REPORTING SYSTEM

If you have witnessed or experienced any safeguarding concern, including but not limited to harassment, abuse, discrimination or inappropriate behaviour within the IMOCA community, we encourage you to report it via this link https://colosse.signalement.net/entreprises, using the form below.

Your report will be handled with the strictest confidentiality and sensitivity. Only authorised personnel involved in the investigation and resolution process will have access to the details of your report.