

## Myths about harassment & abuse

### ***Myth #1: It doesn't happen in our sport***

Abuse happens in all sports

### ***Myth #2: Coaches are the main problem***

No. In fact, athletes perpetrate more sexual harassment on their peers than do coaches

***If you don't want to believe it, you won't see it.***

## GET EDUCATED

IFF's full policy can be found on the IFF website:  
[www.floorball.sport](http://www.floorball.sport)

Find out what your Floorball Federation's policy is. If they don't have one, ask why. You have a right to be protected.

## Top tips for keeping safe & gaining respect

1. Respect the rights of other athletes, coaches and yourself
2. Know your rights and responsibilities
3. Inform yourself of the signs of sexual harassment and abuse
4. Look out for and respond to these signs among your team
5. If you have any concerns talk with your team leader or coach, a senior player, or call a helpline
6. Challenge others if they behave inappropriately
7. Be a good model for others to follow
8. Have fun with your team and coaches within sensible limits



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<https://www.olympic.org/sha>



## Harassment & abuse in sport

# IT'S ABOUT RESPECT!

## RESPECT FOR YOUR BODY.

## RESPECT FOR EVERYBODY.



## Harassment & Abuse

Harassment and abuse can occur in many forms – gender harassment, hazing, sexual abuse, even bystanding.

### What is gender harassment?

Gender harassment means unwelcome behaviour related to someone's gender. It can include slurs, jokes, insults and even physical attacks based on someone's perceived sexual orientation

One example may be where one person treats someone of the other gender in a humiliating way through words or actions

### What is hazing?

Hazing involves abusive initiation rituals that often have sexual aspects and in which newcomers are targeted by teammates. It involves a power difference between team mates, usually based on seniority

### What is bystanding?

Bystanding is having suspicions of, or knowledge about, sexual abuse to an athlete but failing to do anything about it. Passive attitudes/non-intervention, denial and/or silence by people in positions of power in sport increases the psychological harm done by sexual harassment and abuse. Lack of bystander action also creates the impression among victims that sexually harassing and abusive behaviours are acceptable and/or that those in sport are powerless to speak out or do anything to stop it

### What is sexual abuse?

Sexual abuse is behaviour towards an individual or group that involves sexualised verbal, non-verbal or physical behaviour, whether intended or unintended, legal or illegal, that is based upon an abuse of power and trust. It involves any sexual activity where consent is not or cannot be given. Sexual abuse often involves a process known as 'grooming'

### How does sexual harassment and abuse occur?

When sexual abuse happens, athletes might feel like they're the only ones experiencing it – but this is actually not true and others may be feeling the same as you. Athletes may feel humiliated and offended by the unwanted actions. They may also feel trapped in the situation, especially when it involves a person of authority. Sometimes the affected athletes do not even recognize what is happening to them because of the process of grooming.

*Stages of grooming:*

- Targetting a potential victim
- Building trust and friendship
- Developing isolation and control; building loyalty
- Initiation of sexual abuse and securing secrecy

**STAND UP!  
SPEAK OUT!**

## Harassment & abuse can occur in any sport

The IFF has a commitment to create a safe and mutually respectful environment. The IFF encourages all of its Member Associations to adopt prevention strategies that include policies, education, complaint and support mechanisms.

Regardless of cultural differences, every sport organisation should have these provisions in place.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

All Floorball organisations should:

1. Develop policies and procedures for the prevention of sexual harassment and abuse;
2. Monitor the implementation of these policies and procedures;
3. Evaluate the impact of these policies in identifying and reducing sexual harassment and abuse;
4. Develop an education and training program on sexual harassment and abuse in their sport;
5. Promote and exemplify equitable, respectful and ethical leadership
6. Foster strong partnerships with parents/carers in the prevention of sexual harassment and abuse; and
7. Promote and support scientific research on these issues