Welcome to the 17th issue of Relay, the Child Protection in Sport Unit newsletter. In this edition you will find:

- child protection in sport news update.
- welcoming new CPSU team members.
- Positive coaching – by Beth McLeod from Positive Coaching Scotland.
- Abuse of boys in sport – a research article by Dr. Mike Hartill from Edge Hill University.

Child protection in sport news update

New briefings

A library of briefing papers is now available to download from our website. The papers address concerns that have been highlighted by the sport sector. The following briefings are new:

- Using social networking services and social media: promoting safe and responsible use.
- Involving children and young people in mixed age sport/activity.
- Physical contact and young people.
- Safeguarding deaf and disabled children.
- Homophobic bullying in youth sport.

For further information please visit the briefings page of the NSPCC Child Protection in Sport Unit website.
New NSPCC resource  
Safeguarding deaf and disabled children is a new NSPCC resource for use in training and as part of professional group learning sessions. It offers valuable help and support to anyone who works with disabled children and valuable safeguarding information. To purchase a copy visit the NSPCC publications team.

Sportivate  
Sportivate is a Sport England initiative that gives young people aged between 14 and 25 the chance to receive six to eight weeks of coaching in a sport of their choice. This programme is run through a network of 49 county sport partnerships working with a range of local partners. A resource has been developed to support programmes such as Sportivate. For further information visit the CPSU website.
ICSEMIS 2012 is The International Convention on Science, Education and Medicine in Sport. It will take place next year, just days before the opening ceremonies for the 2012 Olympic Games in London. ICSEMIS 2012 will welcome 3,000 delegates from around the world in every professional sector and academic discipline associated with sport, physical education, exercise and sport medicine.

ICSEMIS replaces and expands the scope of the former four-yearly congresses. The first ICSEMIS was held in 2008 in Guangzhou, China, before the Beijing Olympics. In 2012, as hosts of the Olympic and Paralympic Games, the UK will host the second ICSEMIS at the Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre in Glasgow. The event is supported by The International Olympic Committee (IOC), International Paralympic Committee (IPC), International Federation of Sports Medicine (FIMS) and the International Council of Sport Science and Physical Education (ICSSPE).

Visit [www.icsemis2012.com](http://www.icsemis2012.com) for full details and to register your interest.

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**Welcoming new CPSU team members**

Laura Whapham, sports development officer for Wales joined the Child Protection in Sport Unit in January 2011. Laura works closely with Sport Wales to support safeguarding within Welsh national governing bodies. An element of Laura’s role is to support sports through The Safeguarding Standards Framework and enable sports organisations to maintain and embed this practice.

Lisa Charles, senior consultant for England was appointed in May 2011. Lisa’s work involves providing safeguarding guidance and support for national governing bodies in England.

Within the CPSU team Lisa will be taking the lead on our work around involving children and young people in safeguarding through sport.

We also welcome Hannah Mansell, safeguarding information officer back to the team, as she returns from maternity leave. Hannah will be returning part time and Lian Jackson will cover the other half of the safeguarding information officer role.

For further information about key contacts in CPSU, visit the meet the team section on the NSPCC website.
Sportscotland, Scotland’s national agency for sport, is leading the national implementation of the Positive Coaching Scotland (PCS) programme – a cultural-change initiative to create a positive environment for young people in Scottish sport. It uses sport to support children’s learning and the development of their life skills.

Positive Coaching Scotland is one of several support and development programmes that sportscotland is leading on to help develop coaching and volunteering across Scotland. PCS however is unique in that it involves everyone in the community – club leaders, coaches, parents and teachers – and sets new standards for these key influencers in their involvement with young people in sport.

By taking part in Positive Coaching Scotland, partners in local authorities and governing bodies of sport will access an approach which ensures that not only coaches and volunteers are supported to be the best they can be, but that through the cultural-change programme, they encourage our young people to choose and stay in sport while learning valuable character building life lessons.

The background
PCS is based on a highly successful US model (Positive Coaching Alliance) developed at Stanford University in 1998 to combat escalating health and social problems in the USA. Positive Coaching Alliance has been used by over 1,100 sports organisations since its inception, has influenced over 4 million young people, and is helping to create a positive sporting culture in the USA. Prior to handing the baton over to sportscotland, the Winning Scotland Foundation rolled out a two-year pilot of the programme across several local authority areas and Scottish governing bodies of sport.

Values
The cornerstone of Positive Coaching Scotland is the Double Goal Coach ethos:

1. Winning – not at all costs but through concerted effort and learning to compete effectively.
2. More importantly, teaching young people vital, character-building life skills.

Key principles
There are three key principles at the heart of Positive Coaching Scotland. These are critical factors in becoming an effective Double Goal Coach and ensuring that young people gain life skills they can use in and out of sport:

1. Honour our sport
   It is crucial to teach young people how to honour their sport and teach respect for rules, opponents, officials, teammates, and themselves.

2. Redefine ‘winner’
   PCS encourages young people to see beyond the scoreboard when taking part in their sport. True winning comes from giving your best possible effort, continually improving by learning every time you play, maximising your potential by not being afraid to make mistakes and getting better by learning from those mistakes.

3. Fill the emotional tank
   Young people need to feel appreciated, no matter what their ability within their chosen sport. As a Double Goal Coach it is crucial to fill the ‘emotional tanks’ of young people by ensuring we encourage, teach, appreciate, provide non-verbal support and know how to give praise.

By working in partnership with coaches, parents, teachers and sport leaders, PCS can help enhance the skills and learning of all members to create clubs committed to excellence and to championing the Positive Coaching Scotland culture.

To find out more about Positive Coaching Scotland, please contact Beth Macleod, lead manager at sportscotland on 0141 534 6500.

You can learn more about Positive Coaching Scotland and its principles on their website www.sportscotland.org.uk/pcs
While child abuse in sport is generally an under-researched area, the sexual abuse of boys has been particularly neglected. Important research in Australia found that 21 per cent of competitive male athletes, from a sample of 160, had experienced sexual abuse at some time in their lives. We know almost nothing about the experiences of boys who have been abused within the sports context, but academics have suggested that the hyper-masculine culture that is central to much male sport has placed an additional burden upon male victims, securing their silence.

Researchers have identified many popular myths regarding the sexual abuse of boys, chiefly that if they really wanted to they could have stopped it. Recently, however, ex-ice-hockey internationals Sheldon Kennedy and Theoren Fleury (Canada) and ex-England Rugby Union international Brian Moore, have felt able to document something of their experiences of sexual abuse.

I have recently completed some interview research with four adult male ‘survivors’ of childhood sexual abuse in sport. Some key findings were:

1) Without exception, the abusers of these boys were popular and valued amongst the sports community.
2) The abuse lasted for at least one year, usually for several years.
3) These boys were not the only victims.
4) Often rumours surfaced but were not acted upon.
5) During their childhood none of these boys felt able to report their abuse.
6) They worked hard not to let other adults know what was happening to them.
7) They did not go on to become abusive adults.

This was a small-scale study. Further research into the reality of male victimisation is urgently required if we are to develop systems better able to prevent abuse in sport, educate sports communities and support male victims of abuse in sport. For further information about this study or to discuss future research projects, contact Dr. Mike Hartill at Edge Hill University (hartillm@edgehill.ac.uk).