

Child Maltreatment in Sport

A Bibliography



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210 Pratt Avenue, Huntsville, AL 35801
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Scope

This bibliography including international publications covers a variety of issues related to child maltreatment in sport including reporting, disclosure, incidence rate, prevention, policy change, and more. The publications listed are English language books, chapters, and journal articles. This bibliography is not comprehensive.

Organization

Publications are listed in date-descending order, 1988-2017. When possible, the abstracts that were included with the original publication are used in this bibliography. Links to open access publications are provided.

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Child Maltreatment in Sport

A Bibliography

Vertommen, T., Kampen, J., Schipper-van Veldhoven, N., Wouters, K., Uzieblo, K., & Van Den Eede, F. (2017). Profiling perpetrators of interpersonal violence against children in sport based on a victim survey. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, *63*, 172-182.

The current article reports on perpetrator characteristics gathered in the first large-scale prevalence study on interpersonal violence against children in sport in the Netherlands and Belgium. Using retrospective web survey design, 4043 adults answered questions on their experiences in youth sport. The study looks at the number of perpetrators as well as individual descriptive characteristics (sex, age, and role in the sport organization) of perpetrators of psychological, physical and sexual violence as reported retrospectively by victim-respondents. This information was then clustered to provide an overview of the most common perpetrator profiles. Results show that in all types of interpersonal violence in sport, perpetrators are predominantly male peer athletes who frequently operate together in (impromptu) groups. Several differences between the three types of interpersonal violence are highlighted. While incidents of physical violence perpetrated by coaches tend to be less severe compared to those by other perpetrators, acts of sexual violence committed by a coach are significantly more severe. The presented findings shed new light on perpetrators of interpersonal violence in sport, nuancing the predominant belief that the male coach is the main perpetrator while providing nuanced information that can be utilized to improve prevention and child protection measures and other safeguarding initiatives in sport.

Parent, S., Lavoie, F., Thibodeau, M. È., Hébert, M., & Blais, M. (2016). Sexual violence experienced in the sport context by a representative sample of Quebec Adolescents. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, *31*(16), 2666-2686.

This is the first study to report the prevalence of sexual violence perpetrated by a sport coach within a representative sample of the general population of adolescents aged between 14 and 17 years ($N = 6,450$). The questionnaire administered in high schools includes self-reported measures on a variety of dimensions relevant to the study of victimization, including sexual abuse, sexual contacts perceived as consensual, sexual harassment, and involvement in an organized sport context. Descriptive and chi-square analyses were performed. The results show that 0.5% of

adolescents experienced sexual abuse involving a coach. When considering all adolescents who experienced sexual abuse in their lifetime (10.2%), it appears that 5.3% of them were victims of sexual abuse by a coach. Participants also reported experiencing sexual harassment from a coach (0.4%) and consensual sexual contacts (1.2%) with a coach in the 12 months preceding the study. Questions are raised on the overrepresentation of boys in situations of sexual victimization experiences in an organized sport context.

Hedges, A. (2015). Safeguarding in sport. *Sport in Society*, 18(5), 614-625.

‘Safeguarding’ is a new term, which has developed from child protection issues that resulted in UK legislation. It refers to an all-encompassing proactive approach to keeping children and vulnerable adults safe from harm or abuse. High-profile cases have raised public awareness of the importance of safeguarding and the need to report concerns. Similarly, incidents of racism on the sports field and in social media have highlighted the need to promote equality and prevent discrimination. Sport is an important agent for societal change in both cases. Sport leaders have both the opportunity and influence that may facilitate abuse. Therefore, all sports require robust safeguarding and safer recruitment policies and practices including the use of Criminal Record checks. Governing bodies are encouraging personalities to appreciate their positions as role models. As such, sport is a powerful means of engaging the public in conversations about diversity and appropriate behaviour.

Mountjoy, M., Rhind, D. J. A., Tiivas, A., & Leglise, M. (2015). Safeguarding the child athlete in sport: [A review, a framework and recommendations for the IOC youth athlete development model](#). *British Journal of Sports Medicine*, 49(13), 883-886.

Participation in sport has many physical, psychological and social benefits for the child athlete. A growing body of evidence indicates, however, that sport participation may have inherent threats for the child’s well-being. The subject of safeguarding children in sport has seen an increase in scientific study in recent years. In particular, there is increasing emphasis on identifying who is involved in abuse, the context of where it occurs and the identification of the various forms of abuse that take place in the sporting domain. Safeguarding principles developed by the

International Safeguarding Children in Sport Founders Group are presented along with 8 underlying pillars which underpin the successful adoption and implementation of safeguarding strategies. This safeguarding model is designed to assist sport organisations in the creation of a safe sporting environment to ensure that the child athlete can flourish and reach their athletic potential through an enjoyable experience. The aim of this narrative review is to (1) present a summary of the scientific literature on the threats to children in sport; (2) introduce a framework to categorise these threats; (3) identify research gaps in the field and (4) provide safeguarding recommendations for sport organisations.

Owton, H., & Sparkes, A. C. (2015). [Sexual abuse and the grooming process in sport: learning from Bella's story](#). *Sport, Education and Society*, 1-12.

Through a process of collaborative autoethnography we explore the experiences of one female athlete named Bella who was groomed and then sexually abused by her male coach. Bella's story signals how the structural conditions and power relationships embedded in competitive sporting environments, specifically the power invested in the coach, provide a unique socio-cultural context that offer a number of potentialities for sexual abuse and exploitation to take place. We offer Bella's story as a pedagogical resource for those involved in the world of sport to both think about and with as part of a process of encouraging change at the individual and institutional levels.

Teasley, M. L., & Gill, E. (2015). School sports, sexual abuse, and the utility of school social workers. *Children & Schools*, 37(1), 4-7.

Lang, M., & Hartill, M. (2014). Safeguarding and child protection in sport in England. *Safeguarding, Child Protection and Abuse in Sport: International Perspectives in Research, Policy and Practice*, 13-22. New York: Routledge.

Noble, J., & Vermillion, M. (2014). [Youth sport administrators' perceptions and knowledge of organizational policies on child maltreatment.](#) *Children and Youth Services Review*, 38, 52-57.

As one of the largest segments of the sport industry, youth sport provides programs for tens of millions of children throughout the United States. With the growth of youth sports programs, issues concerning the safety of participants have increased. One issue that has garnered considerable attention involves the society-wide problem of maltreatment and abuse of children, and how administrators of youth sport programs address potential incidents of maltreatment within their programs. The purpose of this research is to examine youth sport administrators' perceptions of their organizational policies regarding child maltreatment. Results from an online survey administered throughout a central region of the United States indicated that youth sport programmers view child abuse as a problem in society, but it is not a significant issue within their own organizations. They agree that youth sport administrators have an obligation to report suspicions of child abuse. There were mixed results regarding how sport organizations train their employees to deal with child abuse, though many respondents agreed their organizations have policies toward child abuse. Limitations and recommendations for further research are also discussed.

Rhind, D., McDermott, J., Lambert, E., & Koleva, I. (2015). A review of safeguarding cases in sport. *Child Abuse Review*, 24(6), 418-426.

This study represents the first investigation into incidents of safeguarding concern in sport within the UK. Questionnaires were completed by 41 lead welfare officers from national governing bodies. A total of 652 cases were reported by a range of key stakeholders, covering a variety of different forms of abuse. Physical and sexual abuse were found to be the most frequently alleged forms of abuse. The majority of alleged perpetrators and victims were males. The need for a standardised form for collecting case data as part of normal practice is highlighted along with the necessity for training and support to manage safeguarding cases both internally and externally to sport organisations. Copyright © 2014 John Wiley & Sons, Ltd.

Hartill, M. (2013). Concealment of child sexual abuse in sports. *Quest*, 65(2), 241-254.

When the sexual abuse of children is revealed, it is often found that other nonabusing adults were aware of the abuse but failed to act. During the past twenty years or so, the concealment of child sexual abuse (CSA) within organizations has emerged as a key challenge for child protection work. Recent events at Pennsylvania State University (PSU) received unprecedented media coverage and many commentators observed similarities with the abuse scandals in organized religion. Drawing upon Pierre Bourdieu's critique of the Catholic Church, this article problematizes the emphasis on the moral failings of individual elites, arguing that concealment of CSA is an historical feature of organized sport. It concludes that the emergence of child protection agendas in sport must be accompanied by more reflexive analyses about youth-sport if we are to significantly improve our capacity to safeguard children and young people from sexual violence within sport and physical education contexts.

Stafford, A., Alexander, K., & Fry, D. (2013). Playing through pain: Children and young people's experiences of physical aggression and violence in sport. *Child Abuse Review*, 22(4), 287-299.

While there has been some focus on physical abuse in the general child abuse literature, there have been few studies examining the physical abuse of children in sport. This article focuses mainly on peer physical harm in sport. However, we argue that to fully understand physical harm between young people in sport requires understanding: (1) the 'sporting ethos' prevalent in sport where training and competing to the limits of physicality are part of the culture; and (2) the physical harm that occurs between coaches and young people as a context for understanding physical harm between young people. Results are based on a convenience sample of 6124 young people (age 18–22) who completed an online survey about their experiences of participating in sport as children; 89 follow-up interviews were conducted with a sub-set of these young people. Findings suggest that in sport, where training and competing to the limits of physicality are inherent to sporting achievement, physical harm is common and takes on a different form to physical harm of children in other settings. Copyright © 2013 John Wiley & Sons, Ltd.

Parent, S., & Bannon, J. (2012). Sexual abuse in sport: What about boys? *Children and Youth Services Review, 12*(2), 354-359.

In Quebec, over 500,000 young people are involved in organized sport and the majority of these participants are boys. However, despite this high number of young males participating in sport, the issue of sexual abuse among male athletes has been mainly overlooked. Researchers who have studied sexual abuse in the context of sport have primarily focused on female victims. And yet, some studies have shown that between 2% and 6% of male athletes have suffered sexual abuse in the context of their sport. Thus, studies currently provide very little insight into the problem of sexual abuse among boys in sport. This article presents the current knowledge on the topic and highlights the importance for the academic community to study this issue.

Parent, S. (2011). Disclosure of sexual abuse in sport organizations: A case study. *Journal of Child Sexual Abuse, 20*(3), 322-337.

The disclosure of sexual abuse in the world of sports is a process that has not been widely documented. This article presents the results of a document analysis of sport organization policies and interviews conducted with 27 sport stakeholders. The interviews focus on these stakeholders' perceptions of how the disclosure process would unfold if a case of sexual abuse were to arise in their organization and their perceptions of the actual cases experienced in the sport organizations participating in this study. The results reveal several problems affecting the disclosure of sexual abuse in sport organizations.

Parent, S., & Demers, G. (2010). Sexual abuse in sport: A model to prevent and protect athletes. *Child Abuse Review, 20*(2), 120-133.

Several studies clearly show that sexual abuse exists in sport. Currently, very few studies have examined the prevention and management of this problem in sports organisations. This article explores the measures used to prevent sexual abuse in sports organisations as well as the perceptions of the sports actors affected by these measures (parents, athletes, administrators and coaches). The results demonstrate that several factors affect the implementation of measures and the management of this problem in sports organisations. Moreover, few measures exist to prevent

and manage cases of sexual abuse in these organisations, thus jeopardising the protection of athletes.

Fasting, K., & Brackenridge, C. (2009). Coaches, sexual harassment and education. *Sport, Education & Society*, 14(1), 21–35.

Sexual harassment in sport has become an active research field within the past decade yet we know relatively little about the characteristics of the harassing coach. How are harassing coaches characterized by their victims, that is, the athletes themselves? Do they demonstrate specific kinds of behaviours? One purpose of this article is to address these types of questions. Another is to assess the usefulness of general classifications of perpetrators of sexual harassment. This is done by examining whether qualitative data from sexually harassed elite female athletes support the various conceptual frameworks for sexual harassment that are presented. Results from interviews with 19 female elite athletes who were sexually harassed by their coaches produced a sport typology that consists of three main types: 1) The Flirting-Charming Coach, 2) The Seductive Coach and 3) The Authoritarian Coach. These types are discussed in relation to the previous classifications to test the degree of fit. The limitations of monolithic classifications are exposed by this exercise: the data suggest that, rather than being one-type only, sexually harassing coaches select from a repertoire that may include several different harassment scripts. They vary these according to situational conditions. The wider limitation of social science classifications, that their categories are not discrete, also applies here. This need not be a practical limitation, however, if the typologies are used as heuristic devices rather than to determine, for example, specific disciplinary outcomes or treatment regimes. Sexual harassment prevention is often either missing from coach education programmes altogether or subsumed within broader themes such as (gender) equity or diversity management. One of the educational values of typologies is that they focus attention on the range of potential sexually harassing behaviours in ways which might otherwise escape attention. Communication styles, postures, gestures and group management techniques are just some of the elements of coaching that can be improved with an understanding of sexual harassment scripts. It is difficult to assess whether feminization of the coaching profession would lead to a less harassing environment. But, since this environment is so closely linked to hegemonic masculinity, and what are often described as traditional male values, we hypothesize that a

transformation of the coaching culture, and associated re-scripting of coach behaviour, might be easier if more female coaches were involved in sport.

Hartill, M. (2009). The sexual abuse of boys in organized male sports. *Men and Masculinities*, 12(2), 225-249.

Childhood sexual abuse (CSA) is now a significant issue for organized sports. Since its “discovery” thirty years ago, research on CSA has been guided mostly by the “maleperpetrator—female victim” paradigm; hence, the perspective of the sexually abused male in the sports context has rarely been considered. This article considers organized male-sports as a social space that facilitates the sexual abuse of boys. Through promoting a sociological perspective on child abuse rather than an individualized and pathologized approach, I consider how the institutions of childhood, masculinity, and sports fit together and the contribution that sports make to the adult—child relation. I use Spiegel’s ecosystems model of the sexually abused male (SAM) and the sociology of sports literature to identify how some normative features of male sports contribute to the sexual abuse of male children.

Rossato, C., & Brackenridge, C. (2009). Child protection training in sport-related degrees and initial teacher training for physical education: An audit. *Child Abuse Review*, 18(2), 81-93.

This article reports on an online survey of child protection training for students on sport-related and Initial Teacher Training Physical Education degrees, and on the views of recently graduated teachers of the usefulness of such training in their everyday work. The results indicate that child protection training is provided in most courses but in varying amounts. Respondents to the survey reported positively, in the main, about the effects of new requirements for teacher training (*Every Child Matters: Change for Children*, Department for Education and Skills, 2004). Reasons given for not including child protection in courses were: lack of time; the perceived vocational nature of the topic; lack of fit with course aims and objectives; lack of relevance; and the research rather than professional orientation of the course. Recently graduated teachers’ views on their pre-service child protection training differed from the claims made about this in the survey. In particular, they

raised concerns about their lack of preparation for dealing with potential child protection situations. The article concludes that child protection training within sport-related degrees is deficient in both consistency of delivery and in content, and that, in addition to preparing students to recognise signs and indicators of abuse, curricula should also address undergraduates' confidence and skills for responding to abuse in their everyday professional practice.

Stanley, N. (2009). Safeguarding children in diverse contexts. *Child Abuse Review, 18*(2), 77-80.

The papers in this issue focus attention on the wide range of settings in which child harm may occur and they both contribute to the argument that safeguarding is everybody's business whilst raising questions about how abusive behaviour is understood and responded to in different contexts. Public opinion shaped by media accounts of individual cases plays a key role in defining child abuse and locating it in new settings (Parton, 2007). The role of the media in triggering public concern and a consequent policy response to child deaths has been studied in the UK context (Butler and Drakeford, 2003; Stanley and Manthorpe, 2004; recent coverage of the death of Baby P provided a vivid example of that process in action). However, there is also a role for research which can generate evidence on the extent to which high profile cases are representative or not, and which can challenge simplistic representations of child harm, as well as exploring the effectiveness of prevention and intervention strategies.

Stirling, A. E., & Kerr, G. A. (2009). Abused athletes' perceptions of the coach–athlete relationship. *Sport in Society, 12*(2), 227-239.

The coach-athlete relationship is often one of the most important and influential relationships experienced by a young athlete. While coaches may have many positive influences on young athletes, emerging literature also indicates problems of abuse. In fact, recent research indicates that athletes are not immune from experiences of physical, sexual and emotional abuse. Furthermore, the power of the coach is thought to be a contributing risk factor in abusive relationships. The purpose of this study therefore was to investigate abused athletes' perceptions of the coach-athlete relationship. More specifically, we were interested in abused athletes' perceptions of the power

held by the coach, and the influence of this power on an athlete's experience of abuse. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with nine previously abused athletes; four retired elite female gymnasts and five retired elite female swimmers. Consistent with previous research, the participants reflected upon the significant power held by the coach over the athlete. The findings contributed to existing literature by revealing specific ways in which the coach's power influenced the athletes' experiences of abuse and their ability to report incidences of maltreatment. These findings are discussed and recommendations are made for abuse prevention and future research.

Brackenridge, C. H., Bishopp, D., Moussalli, S., & Tapp, J. (2008). The characteristics of sexual abuse in sport: A multidimensional scaling analysis of events described in media reports. *International Journal of Sport & Exercise Psychology*, 6(4), 385-406

Most research on sexual abuse has been conducted within family settings (Fergusson & Mullen, 1999). In recent years, following several high-profile convictions and scandals, research into sexual abuse has also encompassed institutional and community settings, such as sport and the church (Gallagher, 2000; Woolfe, Jaffe, Jette, & Poisson, 2003). Research into sexual abuse in sport, for example, began with both prevalence studies (Kirby & Greaves, 1996; Leahy, Pretty, & Tenenbaum, 2002) and qualitative analyses of the processes and experiences of athlete sexual abuse (Brackenridge, 1997; Cense & Brackenridge, 2001, Toftegaard-Nielsen, 2001). From such work, descriptions of the modus operandi of abusers in sport, and the experiences and consequences for athlete victims, have been provided, informing both abuse prevention work and coach education. To date, however, no study has provided empirical support for multiple associations or identified patterns of sex offending in sport in ways that might allow comparisons with research-generated models of offending outside sport. This paper reports on an analysis of 159 cases of criminally defined sexual abuse, reported in the print media over a period of 15 years. The main aim of the study was to identify the nature of sex offending in sport, focusing on the methods and locations of offenses. The data were analysed using multidimensional scaling (MDS) as a data reduction method in order to identify the underlying themes within the abuse and explore the inter-relationships of behavior, victim, and context variables. The findings indicate that there are specific themes that can be identified within the perpetrator strategies that include "intimate," "aggressive," and "dominant" modes of interaction. The same patterns that are described here

within the specific context of sport are consistent with themes that emerge from similar behavioral analyses of rapist (Bishopp, 2003; Canter & Heritage, 1990) and child molester groups (Canter, Hughes, & Kirby, 1998). These patterns show a correspondence to a broader behavioral model--the interpersonal circumplex (e.g., Leary, 1957). Implications for accreditation and continuing professional education of sport psychologists are noted.

Kerr, G. A., & Stirling, A. E. (2008). Child protection in sport: Implications of an athlete centered philosophy. *Quest, 60*(2), 307-323.

As sport is a highly child-populated domain, the establishment of child-protection measures to reduce the potential for child maltreatment in sport is critical. Concern for the protection of children in sport has a history that is as old as modern sport itself; however, it is only recently that concern has been established about children's experiences of relational forms of abuse and neglect in this domain. The purpose of this article, therefore, is to review current developments in sport with respect to child-protection policy, education, and research. It is the authors' supposition that an athlete-centered philosophy of sport is perhaps the best way to address the protection of children in sport. The philosophy of an athlete-centered sport model is described, and through the integration of an athlete-centered approach to sport, recommendations are made for future implementation of child-protection measures.

Bringer, J. D., Brackenridge, C. H., & Johnston, L. H. (2006). Swimming coaches' perceptions of sexual exploitation in sport: A preliminary model of role conflict and role ambiguity. *The Sport Psychologist, 20*, 465-479

Bringer, Brackenridge, and Johnston (2002) identified *role conflict and ambiguity* as an emerging theme for some swimming coaches who felt under increased scrutiny because of wider concerns about sexual exploitation in sport (Boocock, 2002). To further understand this emerging theme, 3 coaches who had engaged in sexual relations with athletes, or had allegations of abuse brought against them, took part in in-depth interviews. Grounded theory method (Strauss & Corbin, 1998) was adopted to explore how these coaches responded differently to increased public scrutiny. The findings are discussed in relation to how sport psychologists can help to shape perceptions of

coaching effectiveness that are congruent with child protection measures. Reflective practice is proposed as one method by which coaches may embed child and athlete protection in their definition of effective coaching, rather than seeing it as an external force to which they must accommodate.

Brackenridge, C., Bringer, J. D., & Bishopp, D. (2005). Managing cases of abuse in sport. *Child Abuse Review, 14*(4), 259-274.

New National Standards for Child Protection in Sport require state-funded sport organizations in England to record and monitor allegations of abuse, yet very few sport organizations have robust case-recording and management systems in place. Those that do have found the task of collecting and managing data very challenging. The management and research functions of data systems for abuse allegations are explored with reference to sample data from a study of extant referrals to the Football Association. A preliminary template for the analysis was generated using variables from previous inductive studies. Data for an initial set of 50 variables were extracted from 132 case files and entered into the database. The resultant descriptive data were subjected to visual inspection against a set of concerns from the literature about, for example, false allegations, perpetrator roles and location of abuse. Fears of false allegations of abuse against coaches and other authority figures were shown to be unfounded. However, the case-recording system utilized yielded very few usable data, underlining the need for a functional recording system based on a more tightly specified data-recording method.

Hartill, M. (2005). Sport and the sexually abused male child. *Sport, Education and Society, 10*(3), 287–304, doi:10.1080/13573320500254869.

Through feminist research in the study of sport, the issue of child sexual abuse has been driven onto the agenda of sports organisations, resulting in considerable practical reform (Brackenridge, 2001). However, the flip-side to this development is that the experience of sexually abused males has been largely ignored. In 1990, Struve claimed, ‘a growing number of clinicians who work with sexual abuse are discovering that males probably are sexually victimized just as frequently as females’ (p. 3). Despite research on the ‘sexually victimized’ male reaching back over the last 15 to 20 years, researchers in sport have, so far, largely ignored the issue of the sexual abuse of males.

Certainly, there has been no in-depth treatment of the abuse of males and sport researchers, to date, have been driven by the ‘male perpetrator–female victim’ paradigm. This focus has influenced the type of research that has been conducted and has inadvertently contributed to the further silencing of the sexually abused male. This paper focuses upon the absence of sexually abused male children in empirical research and theoretical analyses of sport. It notes issues, previously ignored within sport, surrounding the sexual abuse of males, particularly the under-identification of this group, as well as recognition of female perpetrators. Through reviewing literature from social work and therapeutic disciplines, this paper brings the sexually abused male into focus and facilitates a discussion of issues, distinct from the sexual abuse of females that have much relevance for sport. It concludes that if sport is to attempt to safeguard all children from sexual abuse, research in, and analyses of, sport, must reflect the highly complex nature of child sexual abuse, including the experience of male children.

Gervis, M., & Dunn, N. (2004). The emotional abuse of elite child athletes by their coaches. *Child Abuse Review, 13*(3), 215-223.

This study investigates the prevalence of emotional abuse of elite child athletes by their coaches in the UK. Previous research has focused primarily on the parent–child relationship, with little attention given to date on the sports environment. Participants were 12 former elite child athletes who competed as internationals in their respective age groups. All participants had been identified as elite athletes between the ages of 8 and 16 years ($M = 13.1$ yr, $SD = 2.4$ yr) and had competitive careers of between 6 and 10 years. Participants were from the sports of diving ($N = 2$), football ($N = 3$), gymnastics ($N = 4$), hockey, netball and track and field athletics ($N = 1$ each). The study was a retrospective analysis of their experiences as elite child athletes. (Age at interview: $M = 22.9$ yr, $SD = 0.9$ yr. male = 4, female = 8.) Thus, participants were reflecting on experiences from about 10 years previously, so their responses represented the residual impact of their experiences that had survived over this period. Data were collected using semi-structured interviews and response-coding techniques. Abusive behaviours were categorized under eight headings: belittling, humiliating, shouting, scapegoating, rejecting, isolating, threatening and ignoring. Results showed that all ($N = 12$) of the participants reported experiencing belittling and shouting by their coach, nine athletes reported frequent threatening behaviour, nine reported frequent humiliation, seven

reported scapegoating, six reported rejection or being ignored and four reported being isolated when they were elite child athletes. All participants reported that the behaviour of their coaches changed and became more negative after they were identified as elite performers. Participants reported feeling stupid, worthless, upset, less confident, humiliated, depressed, fearful and angry as a result of the behaviour of their coaches. The results provide tentative evidence that the behaviour of some coaches is a threat to the psychological well-being of elite child athletes.

Brackenridge, C. (2003). Dangerous sports? Risk, responsibility and sex offending in sport. *Journal of Sexual Aggression, 9*(1), 3-12.

Sport offers prime sex offending opportunities yet has only recently been the subject of exploration and research. In this paper, the respective research approaches adopted by sport science and sex offender 'science' are compared. It is argued that both suffer from occupational blindness towards situational factors and that their joint obsession with individual behaviour modification—for performance enhancement in sport or reducing recidivism rates through treatment—may reduce the efficacy of risk-management interventions at the systemic level. Recent research and policy initiatives are used to illustrate how risk management responsibilities have been implemented in sport.

Leahy, T., Pretty, G., & Tenenbaum, G. (2003). Childhood sexual abuse narratives in clinically and nonclinically distressed adult survivors. *Professional Psychology: Research and Practice, 34*(6), 657-665.

Understanding the complex dynamics involved in sexual abuse trauma is of central importance to clinicians working with adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse. In this study 20 volunteer participants formed 2 gender-balanced groups differentiated by clinical (vs. nonclinical) levels of distress. A negative case analysis revealed group differences in participants' perceptions of the impact of the abuse, meaning attributions for the abuse, and social support experiences. Resolving traumatic attachment to the perpetrator may be the core therapeutic task complicating the process of reclaiming trust, expressing grief and anger, and developing empowered meaning attributions.

Successful negotiation of the complex pathways to recovery requires a therapeutic environment free from countertransference errors.

Wolfe, D. A., Jaffe, P. G., Jetté, J. L., & Poisson, S. E. (2003). The impact of child abuse in community institutions and organizations: Advancing professional and scientific understanding. *Clinical Psychology: Science and Practice, 10*(2), 179-191.

Although child abuse by family members has received considerable scientific and professional attention, knowledge on the impact of abuse committed by perpetrators in (nonfamilial) community organizations and institutions is lacking. We present a conceptual framework derived from child abuse studies, the authors' collective clinical experience with adult survivors of nonfamilial abuse, and two independent panels of abuse survivors, practitioners, and researchers familiar with the impact of such abuse. The framework identifies abuse-related factors that contribute to harmful outcomes, and dimensions of harm associated with such acts. Implications of the conceptual framework are discussed in relation to professional education and practice guidelines, policy and prevention initiatives, and research needs.

Brackenridge, C. (2002). So what? Attitudes of the voluntary sector towards child protection in sports clubs. *Managing Leisure, 7*(2), 103-123.

There is both growing concern about ethical standards in sport and also rapid expansion in the number of local and national schemes designed to encourage youth sports development. Child abuse in youth sport has become a 'moral panic' in British society but there is evidence of a child protection policy vacuum between national and club level. Sport club child protection schemes are rarely informed by the work of their respective national governing bodies but there is an almost complete absence of empirical data with which to support or challenge claims about child safety in voluntary sector sports clubs. The research reported addresses this knowledge gap. It was designed to explore the extent to which one English midlands county had made provision for child protection and to assess the main issues confronting the county in its efforts to enhance child protection in voluntary sport. Voluntary sector junior sports clubs (n = 396) were sent a postal survey; 129 responded. 19 junior sports focus groups and selected county officers and staff were invited to participate in group or individual interviews during the second half of 1999 (prior to the

establishment of the NSPCC/ Sport England Child Protection in Sport Unit). This paper reports the survey and interview data from the voluntary clubs. Results show an extremely varied pattern of awareness of the main child protection issues in the various sports clubs. One common theme emerged, however: there was a clear misapprehension that children are safest amongst those whom they know best and most at risk from those currently outside their sports clubs. This view is firmly contradicted by research statistics on sources of child abuse. The paper argues that the unwillingness of club personnel to challenge their own assumptions is causally linked to a culture of complacency about child protection in voluntary sport.

Leahy, T., Pretty, G., & Tenenbaum, G. (2002) Prevalence of sexual abuse in organised competitive sport in Australia, *Journal of Sexual Aggression, Special Issue on Sexual Harassment and Abuse in Sport*, 8(2), 16-36.

This article reports the first phase of a three-phase research programme investigating the prevalence and long-term sequelae associated with sexual abuse in a non-psychiatric sample of male and female Australian athletes. A cross-sectional, retrospective design, using a mailed survey, provided a quantitative assessment of sexual abuse prevalence in a national sample of elite athletes and a regional sample of club athletes. Results from the total sample (n = 370) revealed that 31% of female and 21% of male athletes reported experiencing sexual abuse at some time in their lives. Of these, 41% of females, and 29% of males had been sexually abused within the sports environment. It was also found that almost half, 46.4%, of the elite group reporting sexual abuse had been sexually abused by sports personnel. For the club group, this figure was 25.6%. Implications of these results and current initiatives for the prevention of sexual abuse of athletes in Australia are discussed.

Cense, M., & Brackenridge, C. H. (2001) Temporal and developmental risk factors for sexual harassment and abuse in sport. *European Physical Education Review*, 7(1), 61-79.

Recent revelations of sexual misconduct by sports coaches have challenged long-held beliefs in the educational value of sport, yet there is very little knowledge about the dynamics of sexual exploitation in sport upon which to base improvements in the practice of sports coaching or

teaching. Earlier inductive research by Brackenridge in Britain established a set of hypothesized risk factors for sexual abuse in sport which have subsequently been reinforced by the results of survey research on elite athletes in Canada. However, risk analysis for sexual abuse in sport has not yet been framed within a temporal or developmental sequence, nor sufficiently differentiated between elite and recreational levels of sport, or between coach-initiated and peer-initiated abuse. This article reports selected findings from a Dutch qualitative study of 14 athletes who have survived sexual abuse in sport. The aim of the study was to identify risk factors that influence sexual abuse and harassment and to analyse which risks might be diminished through a prevention policy implemented by sport organizations. The Dutch study reinforces the earlier risk factor analyses but extends them by putting forward a preliminary temporal model of risk in sport that integrates offender behaviour with athlete and situational factors. On the basis of this model, suggestions are made to assist early diagnosis and prevention of sexual harassment and abuse by authority figures in sport.

Gallagher, B. (2000) The extent and nature of known cases of institutional child sexual abuse. *British Journal of Social Work*, 30(6), 795-817.

The sexual abuse of children by persons who work with them - institutional abuse - is a focus of major concern among policy makers, practitioners and the public. Despite this, knowledge about it remains limited. This paper presents findings from a study of institutional abuse cases referred to social service departments or the police in eight local authority areas. While such cases were relatively uncommon and constituted a small proportion of all child protection referrals, some involved large numbers of victims and abusers. Institutional abuse cases in the present study shared some characteristics with the majority of (intrafamilial) abuse cases, but there were also important differences, such as the proportion of male victims and the extent to which abuses used techniques of targeting and entrapment. Contrary to media representations, the institutional abuse reported here was not just a problem of children's homes, social work or the public sector, but occurred in a wide variety of settings and sectors and was perpetrated by a range of occupational groups. If all children are to be protected, then policy and practice measures to prevent abuse need to be directed towards a much wider range of institutions.

Trocmé, N., & Schumaker, K. (1999). Reported child sexual abuse in Canadian schools and recreational facilities: Implications for developing effective prevention strategies. *Children and Youth Services Review, 21*(8), 621-642.

Examined the relative risk of child and adolescent sexual abuse in community settings (schools and recreational facilities) compared to abuse at home. An analysis of 2 Canadian data bases on investigations of suspected child sexual abuse show that less than 3% of child protection investigations and less than 4% of police investigations involved allegations made against school or recreational personnel. An empirical review of the effectiveness of sexual abuse prevention strategies targeting these settings concludes that strategies, such as limiting children's community activities or limiting staff student, interactions were more likely to increase risk of victimization. Many screening techniques were also considered problematic because they had limited effectiveness and may have created false expectations of safety. Sexual abuse prevention education programs show promise to the extent that they support child disclosures. It is concluded that improved reporting and investigation procedures remain the most promising area for protecting children in the community, although staff resistance to child centered protocols may be an obstacle in some jurisdictions.

Bowker, L. H. (1998) The coaching abuse of teenage girls: A betrayal of innocence and trust. In Bowker, L. H. (Ed.) *Masculinities and Violence*. London: Sage.

Brackenridge, C. H. (1998) Healthy sport for healthy girls? The role of parents in preventing sexual abuse in sport. *Sport, Education and Society, 3*(2), 59-78.

Sexual abuse has only recently been recognised as a problem within sport [Brackenridge, C. (1994) Fair play or fair game? Child sexual abuse in sport organisations, *International Review of the Sociology of Sport, 29*(3), pp. 287–299] and, as yet, little is known about the contexts in which girls might be at greater or lesser risk of experiencing such crimes. This paper explores the assumptions which parents make about their daughters' health and safety in the sports coaching context in relation to Hellestedt's 'Parental Involvement Continuum [Hellestedt, J. (1987) The coach/parent/athlete relationship, *The Sport Psychologist, 1* pp. 151–160]. Data from a study of 93 sets of parents of elite young sportswomen are presented which show what much mothers and

fathers know about their daughters' coaching setting. The results are used to evaluate the extent to which parents' assumptions about sport as a healthy place for healthy girls are warranted. Research on sexual abuse prevention in day care settings [Finkelhor, D. & Williams, L.M. (1988) *Nursery Crimes: Sexual Abuse in Day Care* (London, Sage)] is explored as a possible template for parents who wish to contribute to the prevention of sexual abuse of girls in sport.

Donnelly, P. and Sparks, A. (1997) Child sexual abuse in sport: Moral panic, in P. Donnelly (ed) *Taking Sport Seriously: Social issues in Canadian sport*. Toronto: Thompson Educational Publishing.

Volkwein, K., Schnell, F., Sherwood, D., & Livezey, A. (1997). Sexual harassment in sport: Perceptions and experiences of American female student-athletes, *International Review for the Sociology of Sport*, 23(3), 283-295.

Sexual harassment at institutions of higher learning is not a new phenomenon, but discussions of this problem in the sporting arena and in related research are still scarce. Most studies have focused on student-instructor relationships, while few analyses have analysed coach-athlete relationships. This study examines American female college athletes' experiences with, and emotional responses to, sexual harassment in sport by coaches. The findings clearly demonstrate that the athletic world does not differ with regard to occurrences of sexual harassment compared to other social domains. Thus, in order to guarantee a safe learning environment in athletics for all participants, it is necessary to formulate clear guidelines, set up educational workshops and implement intervention programs.

MacAuley, D. (1996) Child abuse in sport. *British Journal of Sports Medicine*, 30(4), 275-276.

Child abuse also occurs in sport. We may be shocked, horrified, and embarrassed, but it happens. On reflection, it is perhaps not surprising when we consider the opportunity for unsupervised contact with young children but it is a betrayal of trust that can have devastating and lasting effect. Children in sport are open to both physical and emotional abuse, but recent events have

focused our attention on the even more emotive issue of child sexual abuse.

Brackenridge, C. H. (1994). Fair play of fair game? Child sexual abuse in sport organizations. *International Review for the Sociology of Sport*, 29(3), 287-300.

Feminist perspectives in sport research have helped to problematise gender relations in sport and to highlight dominating behaviours such as sexual harassment. It is argued that the independent status of many voluntary sport organisations helps to protect coaches from the scrutiny of certain state regulations and, consequently, offers easy targets for individuals with sexual motives. The paper sets the problem of child sexual abuse in sport within this broad context of organisational accountability and raises issues for both research and professional practice.

Donnelly, P., & Young, K. (1988) The construction and confirmation of identity in sport subcultures. *Sociology of Sport Journal*, 5(3), 223-240.

It is usual in interactionist research to view the process of socialization into subcultures as, in part, a process of identity formation. However, we prefer to examine this process, at least in the case of sport subcultures, as a far more deliberate act of identity construction. That is, through a variety of means, the most significant of which is modeling, the neophyte member begins to deliberately adopt mannerisms, attitudes, and styles of dress, speech, and behavior that he or she perceives to be characteristic of established members of the subculture. Such perceptions among neophytes are usually far from being completely accurate and are frequently stereotypical. Thus, it is necessary to examine also the complementary process of identity confirmation in order to conduct a more complete examination of socialization into a sub-cultural career. These processes, and neophyte mistakes emerging in them, are examined with respect to ethnographies of climbers and rugby players conducted by the authors, together with supporting material from studies of other sports-related aspects of ethnographic research.

