

## **Are the risks of abuse greater in some sports than others?**

There is no evidence to suggest that children are at greater risk of abuse in particular sports, neither is there evidence to suggest that girls are at any greater risk than boys. Any sports club or organisation will be vulnerable if it fails to recognise its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of the children in its care.

Some studies have shown that young people involved in elite level sport are at particular risk of abuse. These young people are often involved in intensive training regimes and competitions that take them away from the home environment for long periods of time. They are often highly dependent on a single adult for both physical and psychological support. They are also in a situation where it is very difficult to speak out about what is happening to them for fear of losing the opportunity to succeed in their sport.