



SAFE SPORTS ENVIRONMENT

Playing football in a safe and enjoyable environment should be a given for everyone. Any form of inappropriate or unethical behaviour is not acceptable in sport. The KNVB works together with clubs and national organisations to ensure a safe sports climate for all participants.

1. WHAT DO WE MEAN BY MISCONDUCT?

Misconduct includes behaviours that cause physical, mental or emotional harm. Examples include:

- Intimidation and abuse of power (e.g. pressuring or controlling someone)
- Sexual harassment and abuse (any unwanted verbal, non-verbal or physical behaviour with a sexual nature)
- Discrimination (unequal treatment based on personal characteristics)
- Bullying (repeated intimidating behaviour)
- Aggression and violence

For more information go to the Dutch Centre for Safe Sport ([Centrum Veilige Sport Nederland](#)).

2. WHERE TO REPORT MISCONDUCT?

1. Report sexual intimidation/ harassment

If you experience unwanted sexual remarks/ touching or sexual assault in any form, you are often left with a complex mix of questions and emotions. Please know that you can safely and anonymously seek help by reporting sexual harassment through:

- The Safe Sport Centre of NOC*NSF: [Centrum Veilige Sport Nederland](#).
- A confidential contact person at the KNVB: vcp@knvb.nl or 06 57 11 45 63.
- In most cases, your own club (the board or a confidential person).

If you hear of cases of sexual intimidation/harassment experienced by someone else, or you have any questions, you can also contact the contacts mentioned above.

Have you, as a club board member, received signals of sexual harassment?

Please be aware that since 2019, sports administrators have a reporting obligation when they become aware of signs of sexual harassment within their club. For board members, it can be a difficult step to raise or report such behaviour. Especially within amateur clubs, there is often a personal connection with both the victim and the accused. It is important to know that both the position of the victim and that of the accused are handled with care.

How to start disciplinary proceedings?

When incidents such as sexually suggestive remarks, unwanted touching, sexual assault, or sexual abuse occur within a club, they have a significant impact. In such cases, it is possible to report the incident within the sports system. A disciplinary procedure within sport is handled by the Institute for Sports Law ([ISR](#)). You can start a proceeding by calling, messaging (WhatsApp), or emailing the

confidential contact person. It is also possible to reach out anonymously (06 57 11 45 63 / vcp@knvb.nl).

The ISR operates as an independent judicial body within sport. Reporting a case to the ISR is not the same as filing a report with the Public Prosecution Service. By involving the ISR, you can ensure that sanctions are imposed within the sporting context. This may result in a person being temporarily or permanently banned from football or other sports environments.

You may choose to report the incident to both the ISR and the Public Prosecution Service.

Support is also available for individuals who are accused of sexual harassment. Does this apply to you? If so, please contact the Centre for Safe Sport ([Centrum Veilige Sport Nederland](#)).

2. Report all other forms of misconduct

- To report forms of discrimination, integrity, intimidation, abuse of power, match fixing, bullying, doping, drugs and alcohol: go to [Centrum Veilige Sport Nederland](#).
- For incidents or disorder on and around the football field that are not recorded on the match report, there is the Misconduct Reporting Point of the KNVB ([Meldpunt Klachten/Wanordelijkheden](#)). Here, anyone can report unpleasant experiences and incidents to the KNVB.

The KNVB handles reported concerns and comments that are not urgent and do not qualify for a formal disciplinary procedure through one of the official channels with due care. This reporting point may receive a wide range of complaints within amateur football, such as biased referees or linesmen, poor hospitality, misconduct on the sidelines, or matches that are close to escalating, and similar issues.

Based on these reports, the KNVB gains insight into patterns of misconduct and can, where necessary, intervene at an early stage and take action. This may include appointing an observer or more closely monitoring and supporting a club that is mentioned frequently.

- To solely report any case of discrimination: [Discriminatie melder](#).