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Preamble

The Islamic Solidarity Sports Association (ISSA) affirms its duty to protect all athletes, participants, officials, staff, and volunteers from harm, abuse, and exploitation. This Framework establishes mandatory standards for prevention, reporting, and response to safeguarding concerns.

It reflects both international safeguarding standards and the values of the Islamic sporting community, rooted in dignity, culture and justice.

Scope of Application

1. This Framework applies to:
 - The ISSA Executive Board, Committees and Commissions, and all ISSA officials;
 - Member NOCs and their officials in their relations with ISSA;
 - Organising Committees of ISSA events, and all accredited participants, including athletes, team staff, volunteers, and partners.
2. Member NOCs must adopt and enforce national safeguarding policies consistent with this Framework and applicable domestic law. They shall designate trained Safeguarding Officers responsible for implementation.

A. PRINCIPLES OF SAFEGUARDING

Article 1 – Core Principles

- 1.1 Zero tolerance for abuse, harassment, exploitation, and neglect.
- 1.2 Duty of care: all ISSA parties must take reasonable steps to prevent foreseeable harm.
- 1.3 People-first approach: safeguarding is survivor-centred, confidential, and culturally respectful, consistent with Islamic values and international standards.

Article 2 – Key Definitions

- 2.1 *Child*: any person under the age of 18.
- 2.2 *Adult at risk*: an adult who, by reason of disability, circumstance, or power imbalance, faces increased risk of harm.
- 2.3 *Safeguarding*: proactive and reactive measures to protect people from abuse, harassment, exploitation, and neglect in sport.

2.4 *Safeguarding Officer*: a trained person at ISSA or Member NOC level designated to receive reports, triage cases, and coordinate responses.

2.5 *Official*: any member of the NOC team/ entourage participating in an ISSA event/ championships. It also covers all accredited contractors, providers, media, volunteers and vendors.

2.6 *Survivor-centred*: refers to the framework being anchored in promoting the interests of the survivors (person been abused)

B. TYPES OF SAFEGUARDING OFFENCES

Article 3 – Abuse

3.1 *Physical abuse*: deliberate infliction of physical harm

3.2 *Sexual abuse*: any sexual act/conduct without free, informed, and ongoing consent.

3.3 *Psychological abuse*: threats, coercion, humiliation, or controlling behaviour causing mental harm.

3.4 *Online abuse*: Any harassment, intimidation, discrimination, or sexual exploitation using digital means, including but not limited to messaging, social media, or image-based abuse.

3.5 *Medical Neglect and Forced Return-to-Play*: This includes compelling an athlete to train or compete when they are injured, ill, or not medically cleared to do so.

Article 4 – Harassment

4.1 *Sexual harassment*: unwelcome sexual advances or conduct.

4.2 *Discriminatory harassment*: harassment based on race, nationality, religion, sex, or other protected grounds.

4.3 *Bullying or intimidation*: repeated or severe conduct intended to cause distress.

Article 5 – Exploitation and Power Abuse

5.1 *Grooming*: establishing a relationship of trust to enable abuse.

5.2 *Financial or labour exploitation*: benefiting improperly from another person's labour, status, or resources.

5.3 *Abuse of authority*: using one's position to obtain advantage or suppress complaints.

Article 6 – Neglect and Failures to Protect

6.1 Neglect: failing to provide reasonable protection, supervision, or care.

6.2 Organisational safeguarding failures: unsafe environments, lack of risk assessments, or failure to act on concerns.

C. SAFEGUARDING RESPONSIBILITIES

Article 7 – ISSA Responsibilities

7.1 Maintain this Framework, issue guidance, appoint Safeguarding Officers at ISSA events, and operate confidential reporting systems.

7.2 Provide training curricula, model policies, and reporting templates to Member NOCs; monitor compliance and require corrective action where gaps exist.

Article 8 – Member NOC Responsibilities

8.1 Adopt national safeguarding policies aligned with this Framework.

8.2 Appoint trained Safeguarding Officers and ensure safeguarding training for all officials and coaches.

8.3 Apply lawful vetting and background checks for those in contact with children or adults at risk.

Article 9 – Individual Responsibilities

9.1 All covered persons shall uphold safeguarding duties, complete mandatory safeguarding training, and report suspected harm promptly and in good faith.

D. REPORTING AND CASE HANDLING

Article 10 – Reporting Channels

10.1 Reports may be submitted:

- Through ISSA's confidential online/email reporting system;
- To an ISSA Event Safeguarding Officer;
- To a Member NOC Safeguarding Officer.

10.2 Reports may be anonymous if sufficiently detailed.

10.3 Where there is immediate danger, local law enforcement or emergency services must be contacted first, followed by notification to ISSA/Member NOC safeguarding officers.

Article 11 – Case Management

11.1 Reports shall be acknowledged promptly (normally within 48 hours).

11.2 Initial triage shall assess risk and determine protective measures.

11.3 Investigations shall be impartial, timely, survivor-centred, and respect due process.

11.4 Where criminal behaviour is suspected, matters shall be referred to national authorities while preserving confidentiality and evidence.

11.5 Survivors shall receive regular updates on the progress of their case.

Article 12 – Event-Time Safeguarding

12.1 ISSA events shall have Safeguarding Officers, published reporting procedures, and private spaces for disclosures.

12.2 Temporary protective measures (e.g., suspension of accreditation, restriction of contact) may be applied pending investigation.

E. SANCTIONS AND MEASURES

Article 13 – Disciplinary Sanctions

13.1 Proven safeguarding violations shall result in sanctions proportionate to the offence, which may include:

- (a) Warning;
- (b) Mandatory safeguarding training;
- (c) Restrictions on role or responsibilities;
- (d) Suspension from duties or ISSA events;
- (e) Removal from office;
- (f) Ban or expulsion from ISSA membership and activities;
- (g) Referral to national or international authorities.

Article 14 – Interim Protective Measures

14.1 Pending final decision, immediate measures may be imposed where credible risk exists, including suspension, supervision, or contact restrictions.

Article 15 – Appeals

15.1 Persons sanctioned under this Framework may appeal in writing within 14 days.

15.2 Appeals shall be reviewed by an independent panel appointed by ISSA.

15.3 The panel may confirm, vary, or overturn sanctions; its decision shall be final within ISSA.

F. TRAINING, VETTING, AND PREVENTION

Article 16 – Training

16.1 All ISSA officials, Committee members, and event staff shall undergo mandatory safeguarding induction training.

16.2 Member NOCs must ensure coaches, managers, and personnel complete safeguarding training, with periodic refreshers.

Article 17 – Vetting

17.1 Member NOCs shall conduct lawful background checks for all roles involving access to children or adults at risk.

17.2 ISSA may set minimum vetting requirements for participation in ISSA events.

G. MONITORING AND REVIEW

Article 18 – Compliance

18.1 Member NOCs shall submit an annual safeguarding compliance statement to ISSA, including:

- Policy adoption and updates;
- Appointment of safeguarding officers;
- Training and vetting status;
- Aggregate reporting data (anonymised).

18.2 ISSA may audit compliance and require remedial action as a condition of participation.

Article 19 – Review

19.1 This Framework shall be reviewed every three (3) years, or earlier where required, to reflect changes in law, best practice, and ISSA standard.

By adopting this Framework, ISSA and its Member NOCs commit to safe sport for all, grounded in Islamic values and aligned with international safeguarding standards.

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