

Guidance on the Reporting of Safeguarding Matters to World Athletics, by Member Federations & Area Associations

This note is intended to provide guidance to Member Federations and Area Associations in identifying what safeguarding matters must be reported to World Athletics and the Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU), in accordance with the *World Athletics Safeguarding Policy* and *World Athletics Safeguarding Rules*.

Failure for Member Federations and Area Associations to comply with these notification requirements may lead to sanctions being imposed in accordance with the World Athletics Constitution or the Member Federation Rules.

Any questions on this guidance can be addressed to: Safeguarding@worldathletics.org. We thank you for your collaboration.

Member Federations are responsible for the majority of safeguarding matters arising within their country or territory. There are two circumstances in which the existence of a complaint, investigation or case must promptly be disclosed to World Athletics and the AIU. These are set out below:

1. Matters which are subject to the jurisdiction of World Athletics and the AIU

Rule 1.5.2 of the Rules requires Member Federations and Area Associations to report to the AIU any information about behaviour by an individual who falls under the jurisdiction of the AIU which might be a safeguarding concern (as defined by the Rules) to the AIU. This includes any **allegation** of such behaviour outlined in Rule 2 of the Rules.

Individuals who are subject to the jurisdiction of World Athletics / the AIU are:

- World Athletics Officials;
- Persons participating in or accredited at World Athletics Series (WAS) Events, or other World Athletics Events such as the Ultimate Championships, including persons involved in the hosting or organisation of such events;
- Persons participating at or accredited at the Olympic Games;
- Persons participating at or accredited at a World Athletics Congress; and/or
- Member Federation or Area Association Officials who have failed to adequately investigate and/or prosecute a safeguarding concern under the appropriate Member Federation procedures.

Behaviour which might be considered to be a safeguarding concern is any allegation of behaviour defined as “Prohibited Conduct” and set out in Rule 2 of the Rules. This includes abuse, harassment or exploitation, any criminal offence which would give rise to a safeguarding concern, and failure to report a safeguarding concern, among others.

By way of example, the following scenarios would require referral to the Athletics Integrity Unit:

- a. Abusive, harassing or exploitative conduct arising at World Athletics Championships or another World Athletics Event, where the perpetrator is under the jurisdiction of World Athletics (e.g. they are accredited).

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- b. A complaint of Prohibited Conduct involving a World Athletics Council Member, or a Member of one of its Commissions.

Complaints of this nature (examples 1 & 2) do not have to be proven for the purposes of referral; the AIU will assess and, where appropriate, investigate any allegations of behaviour which might constitute Prohibited Conduct. It is not for the person reporting such behaviour to decide if it is Prohibited Conduct or not.

2. Decisions relating to International Participants

Pursuant to Rule 1.5.1 of the Rules, Member Federations and Area Associations must report to World Athletics and the AIU any decision in respect of an **International Participant** which has been made regarding a safeguarding concern either by the Member Federation or Area Association or by another competent authority such as a court of law, safeguarding authority or professional regulator. This includes provisional or temporary suspensions and applies regardless of the outcome of the decision.

Member Federations or Area Associations must provide World Athletics and the AIU with a copy of the safeguarding decision and the supporting case file relating to the decision and this must be done **within 7 days** of the decision being issued.

Where the decision is not issued by the Member Federation or Area Association (for example, it is a Court decision), then the information must be reported **within 7 days** of becoming aware of it.

An International Participant is anyone who:

- (i) is or has previously been selected or appointed to attend **an international competition**, in any capacity;
- (ii) is or has previously been an **official member of an MF or AA delegation**;
- (iii) is or has previously been a **coach or athlete support person to an International-level Athlete**;
- (iv) is **believed to have moved or be seeking to move** to the Country or Territory of another Member Federation or Area Association **to evade any ban**, suspension or restriction imposed on them from working in Athletics; or
- (v) is an **international-Level Athlete**.

Reporting Channels for Decisions and Matters of World Athletics/AIU Jurisdiction

Member Federations and Area Associations must report safeguarding decisions to World Athletics at safeguarding@worldathletics.org.

Safeguarding matters which involve World Athletics Officials may be reported directly to the Integrity Unit via [one of its reporting channels](#).

Reporting must be done within 7 days of the decision being issued / becoming aware of the information.

When in doubt, a report can be made to either World Athletics or the Integrity Unit, who shall refer the matter to the appropriate body.