



Report by the Scort Foundation

CHILD ONLINE PROTECTION IN SPORTS

Purpose

Scort Foundation statement.

Action required

This statement is transmitted to the Council Working Group on Child Online Protection **for information.**

References

[CWG-COP-20/INF/1 PowerPoint presentation and video](#)

ITU Council Working Group on Child Online Protection

Scort Foundation Statement

January 2024

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

The testimonies of our Young Coaches vividly illustrate that through the support of sports and play-based initiatives, we not only have the opportunity to cultivate a culture of digital responsibility and safety among young coaches and the children they train, but also to proactively address potential risks within sports organisations, including online grooming, cyberbullying, privacy violations, and various other challenges.

The Scort Foundation is an independent and operative Foundation working in the field of sport for development. Our initiatives are dedicated to empowering young leaders working with children and youth. We support these young leaders in fostering holistic development and peacebuilding initiatives through sport. Additionally, we equip them with the necessary tools to better protect the children they work with.

In collaboration with the International Telecommunication Union, we have been actively engaged in promoting safe spaces for children, both in the physical and digital world. Since 2020, our joint efforts, including webinars, trainings, panel discussions, and roundtables, have provided invaluable insights into the challenges and opportunities surrounding Child Online Protection. Together, we have developed recommendations designed to assist sports organizations in integrating online safeguarding policies into their child protection frameworks.

In the next phase of our partnership, we focus on the development of a practical toolkit. This toolkit is tailored to empower young coaches and social workers in vulnerable communities, equipping them with the knowledge and tools needed to integrate child online protection into their sport and play-based initiatives. Going beyond technical guidance, this toolkit underscores the critical role of fostering a safe and supportive environment where children can learn, play, and thrive, both online and offline.

As we navigate the complex challenges of child online protection, we extend a call to all Member States, international entities, and partners to actively participate in this crucial initiative. Your contributions, experiences, and best practices from diverse regions will enrich our collective understanding and enable the creation of a toolkit that is tailored to the unique needs of children in the digital age.

In the spirit of collaboration, we encourage you to share your best practices and challenges from your respective countries and communities. By sharing insights, we collectively contribute to the creation of a lasting legacy focused on safeguarding, empowering, and enlightening the online world for our children. Your support, inputs, questions, and shared experiences are not only welcome but essential in shaping the success of this initiative.

Thank you, and we are looking forward to your invaluable contributions.