

International
Paralympic Committee

Prevention of Harassment and Abuse in Paralympic Sport

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International
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Committee





Outline

Description

*of Safe Sport and
our athletes' risk*

Definition

*of harassment and
abuse*

Strategies

*to identify abuse at
The Games*

Protocol

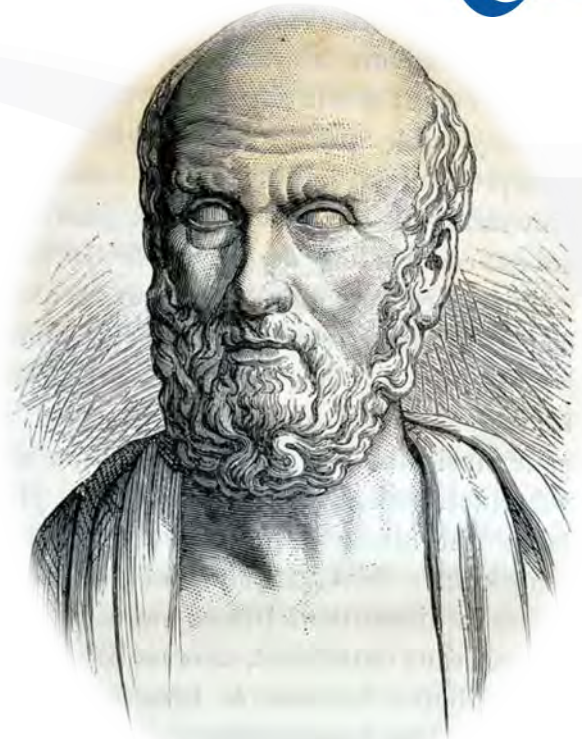
*for reporting abuse
during The Games*

It's not an easy topic...



As healers, this is our issue

“... I will use treatment to help the sick according to my ability and judgment, but never with a view to injury and wrong-doing. Neither will I administer a poison to anybody when asked to do so, nor will I suggest such a course ... I will abstain from all intentional wrong-doing and harm ...”



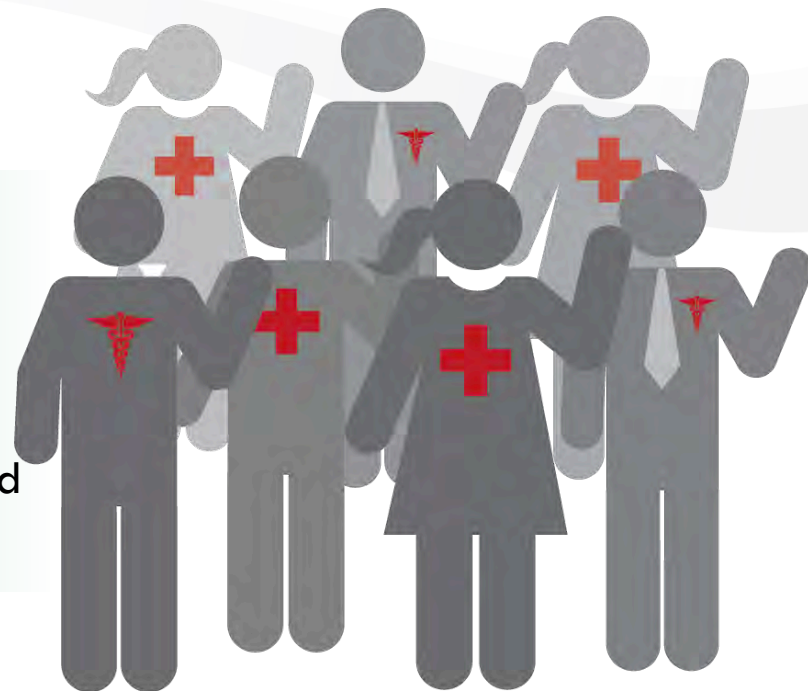
Hippocrates



Prius dān mō hānāere

Nonmaleficence

- A pledge we all made
- Most important tenet in medical practice
- Fundamental principle throughout the world





Including the world of sports

Athletes have a right to 'Safe Sport'

- Defined as an athletic environment that is respectful, equitable, and free from all forms of non-accidental violence
- Consensus published in April 2016 (SSI/IOC)





For us, is 'Safe Sport' elusive?

Athletes with disabilities

- Youth have 2-3 X risk of psychological, physical and sexual abuse compared to able-bodied
- Vulnerable to assumptions about and exploitation of athletes' care needs (communication, travel, logistics)
- Blurred responsibilities among entourage





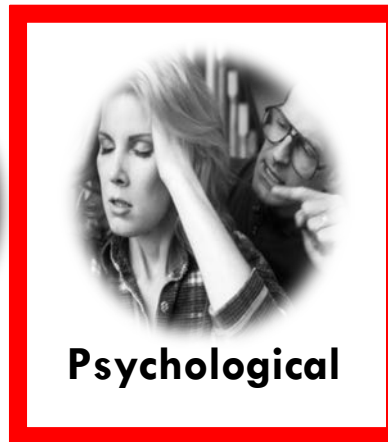
At least five types of abuse in sport



Physical



Sexual



Psychological



Financial

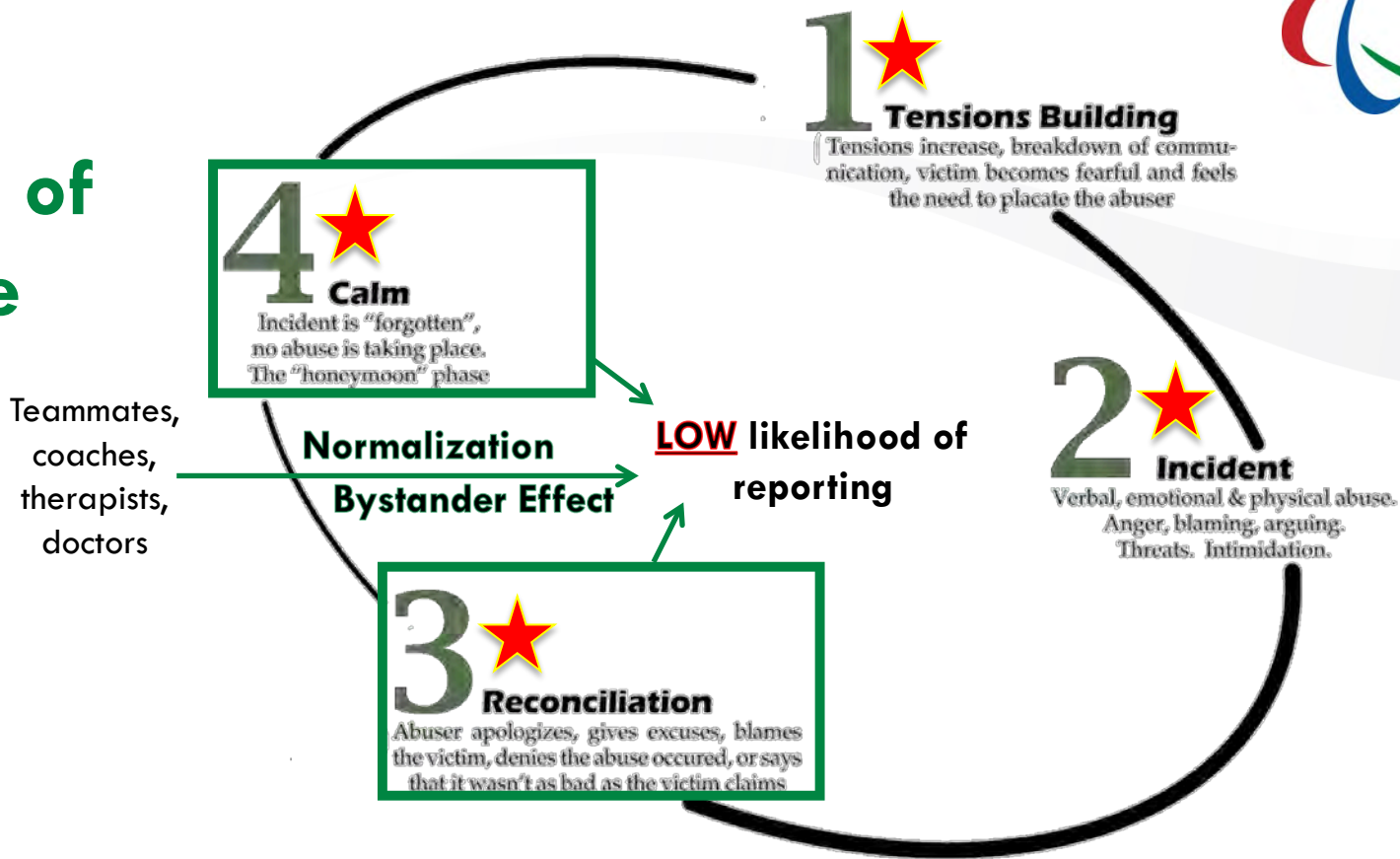


Neglect

*Psychological abuse is at the **core**, as all forms rely on a **power** differential*



Cycle of abuse





Our obligation

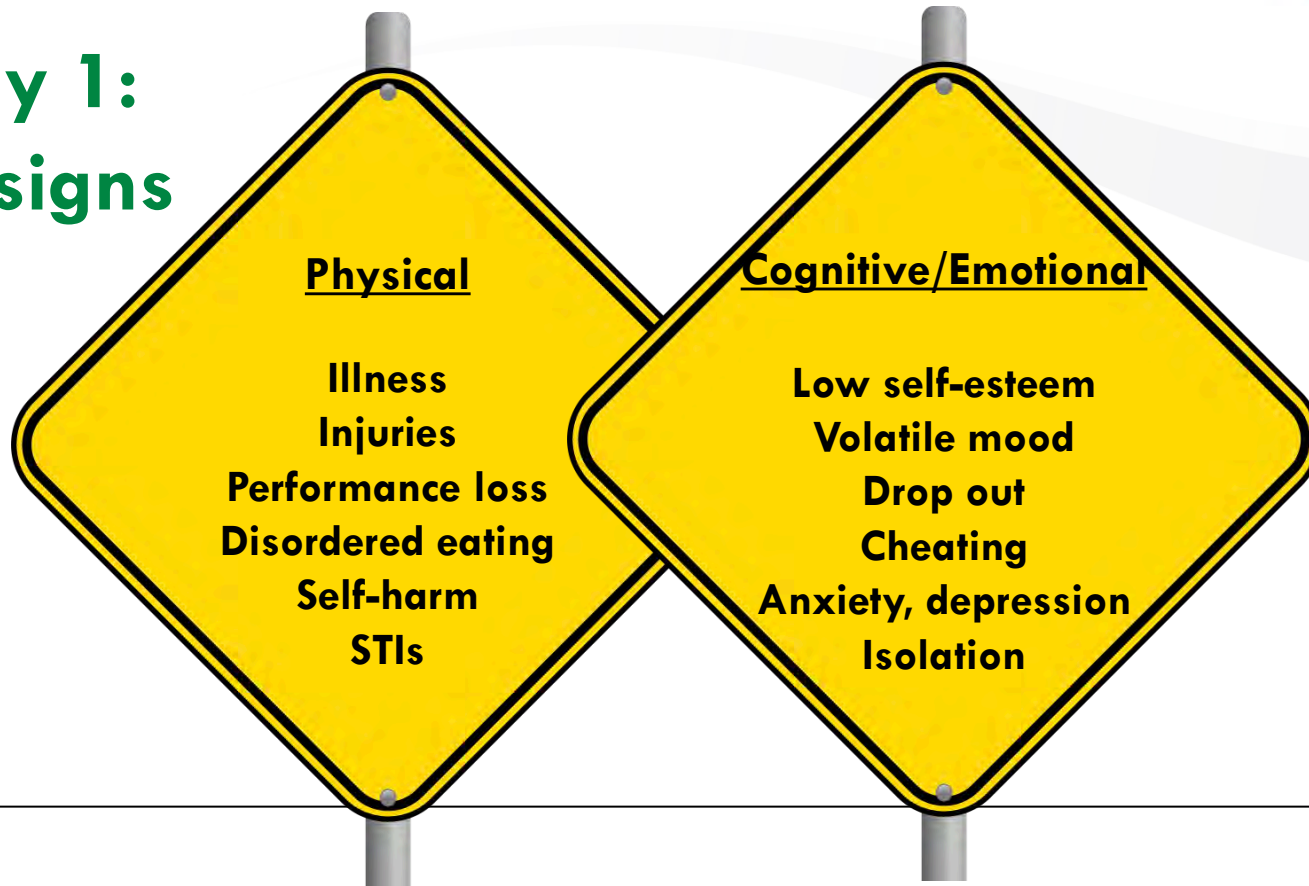
Educate



Advocate



Strategy 1: Know signs





2: Recognize suspicious patterns

Physical

Illness

Injuries

Performance loss

Disordered eating

Self-harm

STIs

Cognitive/Emotional

Low self-esteem

Volatile mood

Drop out

Cheating

Anxiety, depression

Isolation



3: Ask screening questions

Athletes may not volunteer data

- Compassionate, non-judgmental, private, safe
- ➔ ○ “How are things going at training?” or
“How does your [coach/agent/official] treat you?”
- ➔ ○ “Because difficult relationships affect health, I’m asking my athletes about it”
- ➔ ○ **Emphasize medical setting as a resource:** “I want you to know that if anything like this ever comes up, this is a safe place to talk about it & get help.”



The mnemonic SAFE can help you

Stress/Safety

What stresses do you experience in your [sports] relationships?

Do you feel safe in your relationships?

Afraid/Abuse

Have there been situations in your relationship where you have felt afraid?

Have you ever been threatened or hurt?

Friends/Family

Are your friends and family aware of what is going on?

Emergency

Do you have a safe place to go in an emergency?



Protocol: Paralympic Games-time procedure

IPC Code of Ethics

Position statement on sexual harassment and abuse in sport

Information

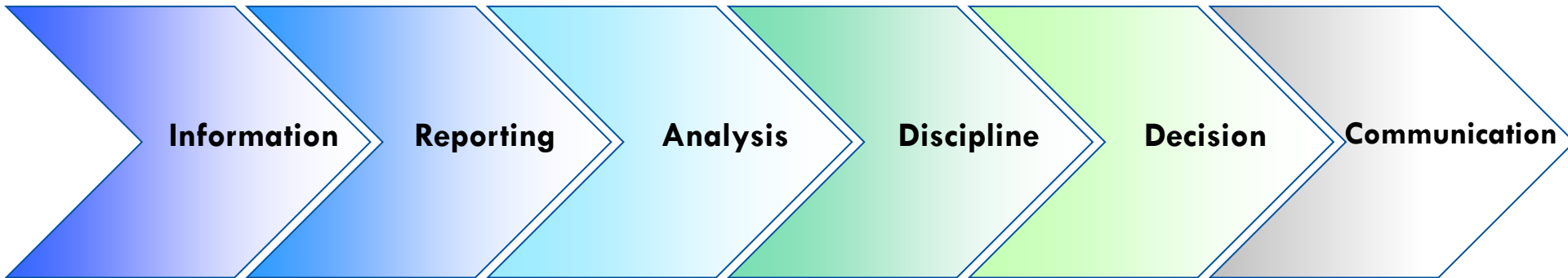
Reporting

Analysis

Discipline

Decision

Communication





Bottom line for you

If abuse is suspected or identified

- ➔ ○ Confidentially inform welfare officer in person or by completing a confidential reporting form (available at the Polyclinic)
- ➔ ○ Welfare officer will follow up with the complainant; Psychological, medical or other support will be offered
- ➔ ○ Case will be reviewed, IF/NPC engaged if appropriate
- ➔ ○ Our goal is to have engaged appropriate authority to resolve ASAP





First do no harm

(even if we are not psychologists)

Do not normalize harm

Do not enable harm

Do not dismiss harm

Do not ignore harm

Do not tolerate harm





As we help enable a safe athletic environment..



Physical



Sexual



Psychological



Financial



Neglect



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Obrigado!