



April 16th 2020

Letter of Recommendation – The Guardian within Sporting Federations

To Whom It May Concern,

Canoeing South Africa has worked with The Guardian before. They ably assisted us with screening a number of our coaches and checking their status against the necessary child protection registers.

As a Federation we have in recent months become increasingly aware that more could be done to further protect our members and administrators. We realized we needed to implement better safeguarding structures across our Federation.

An incident recently occurred at one of our clubs in Gauteng and I was approached to assist. Not knowing what measures to take I felt concerned that I wouldn't handle the matter in the correct manner. I decided to reach out to The Guardian to find out if they could assist and maybe offer some guidance on how we should move forward.

They immediately provided support and assisted with the necessary procedure, thus ensuring the Federation and Club in question, acted in a responsible manner and the young victim's needs were respected and the case handled correctly.

They were able to help secure evidence, and structure an inquiry that was held in accordance with South African Law, all during lockdown.

Based on their professionalism in dealing with this matter I asked them to recommend how we as a Federation could implement better safeguarding measures that would allow us to not only better safeguard our athletes, but also our coaches and the Federation. It is important to us to ensure that Canoeing South Africa has safeguarding standards that align to International Standards. With this in mind and our latest dealings we have decided to appoint The Guardian as our National Safeguarding Partner.

I feel safe in the knowledge that in my role as National Development Coordinator and Internal Tour Manager, I will be supported in all measures relating to safeguarding practices. I would happily recommend The Guardian to any Federation who may be considering getting their safeguarding practices in order, and would happily discuss further with any interested party.

Finally, I would like to thank Marc and his team for the work that they are doing in the Sport Safeguarding Space. It gives administrators like me peace of mind that we too are supported in this ever changing and daunting environment.

Yours Sincerely,
Janet Simpkins
CSA National Development Coordinator.

Badminton South Africa

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Earlier this year allegations of inappropriate behaviour were disclosed to me by a member of our federation. The allegation was that another member had attempted to be inappropriate with her whilst overseas at an international tournament. After contacting various National and International sporting bodies for assistance and no help or clear guidance on the matter, I decided to contact The Guardian whom we were introduced to us at the Jose Foundation Safeguarding in Sport Conference.

I chatted with Marc Hardwick who advised me how to handle the situation. He advised me on what to do and went so far as to send me all the necessary documentation that I needed to conduct a disciplinary enquiry. The enquiry did not go off without some challenges created by the man in question but the way that it was handled by The Guardian was both excellent and reassuring.

I do not believe we could have resolved this matter as effectively and as swiftly as we did if it wasn't for them. Marc was present at the enquiry and has assisted me throughout the process.

I have subsequently asked him to send us a proposal as we would like to appoint The Guardian as our National Safeguarding Partner.

Having worked in sport internationally and understanding the importance of Safeguarding in Sport, the solution offered by The Guardian is essential and smart and the service we were given went above and beyond.

I have absolutely no hesitation recommending The Guardian to assist any Federation with their safeguarding needs. I have been extremely impressed with their professionalism and understanding of Safeguarding in Sport.

Kind regards,

Celeste Coughlan
Chief Operating Officer
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