

SAFE SPORT INSPIRATION DAYS

27-28
NOVEMBER 2024

ANTWERP
BELGIUM

////// CONFERENCE BROCHURE ////

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SAFE SPORT INSPIRATION DAYS

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SCIENCE SLAM, KEYNOTES, WORKSHOPS & NETWORKING

WELCOME!

We are delighted to welcome you to the Safe Sport Inspiration Days, taking place on November 27 and 28, 2024 in Antwerp. After a decade of dedicated work on prevention of **interpersonal violence** and fostering a motivating, safe sports environment in Flemish sports, this event will be an ideal moment to reflect on our progress. *Are we on the right path? Where can we improve? How can we strengthen our efforts? And what can we learn from international initiatives?*

The Inspiration Days will provide a unique platform to explore the latest **research**, gain insights from renowned **experts** from both Flanders and abroad, and participate in hands-on sessions tailored for **safeguarding practitioners** (e.g., safeguarding officers, trust person, sport psychologists, child protection officers), **policymakers**, **researchers**, and **sports professionals**.

On the 27th of November, we will welcome researchers and interested parties to present their latest research ideas during our interactive **Science Slam**. The **Safe Sport Congress** will take place on the 28th of November. During **keynote presentations** and **panel discussions**, we will explore the current state-of-the-art, both locally and internationally, and listen to inspiring practices and experiences. Through a variety of **workshops**, we will dive deep into critical topics such as eating disorders in sports, psychological violence, and other pressing issues.

In collaboration with **Sportieq**, the annual meet up for safeguarding officers of the Flemish sport federation and municipality sports services will be held at the conference, offering support and resources for their crucial roles. Additionally, together with **Sport Vlaanderen**, we provide a platform for policymakers and sports administrators to map out the **strategic agenda** for the coming years. Further, we offer a dedicated **researchers' session** with practical guidance on conducting ethical, trauma-sensitive, and qualitative research into safe sports climates.

With a well-rounded program that blends **theory**, **policy**, and **practice**, the **Safe Sport Inspiration Days** will be an invaluable experience for everyone involved. We look forward to meaningful discussions, valuable knowledge-sharing, and the development of new strategies to ensure a safe, positive, and motivating sports environment. We wish you an inspiring and enriching time at the **Safe Sport Inspiration Days** and hope you leave with fresh insights and actionable ideas to further contribute to a safe sports culture.

A warm welcome, and let yourself be inspired!



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PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Date and location

DAY 1: SCIENCE SLAM - 27/11/24

- Thomas More University of Applied Sciences - Campus National*
- Kronenburgstraat 62, 2000 Antwerp

DAY 2: SAFE SPORT CONGRESS - 28/11/24

- Thomas More University of Applied Sciences - Campus Sanderus*
- Molenstraat 8, 2018 Antwerp

**Within walking distance of Antwerp Central Station*

Target group

- Safeguarding practitioners (e.g., club safeguarding officers, Integrity points of contact [APIs] of federations, sports services & associations)
- Administrators & employees of sports federations, sports services & associations
- Health professionals
- Sports coaches
- Club directors
- Professional care providers
- Policymakers
- Researchers
- Students

Price

Day 1 Science Slam: €35

Day 2 Conference: €60*

**free for Flemish APIs of recognised Flemish sports federations and sports services*

Combo Day 1 + Day 2: €85^o

^o Discounts for Ba, MSc/MA, PhD students

Contact Us

More info & registration:

<https://thomasmore.be/en/safesport-inspirationdays>

Questions:

safeguardingsportandsociety@thomasmore.be

Organising Committee

The Safeguarding Sport and Society team of Thomas More University of Applied Sciences, Ghent University, Sportieq and Sport Vlaanderen.

With the support of the International Research Network on Violence and Integrity in Sport (IRNOVIS).

27th November 2024

Program Safe Sport Science Slam

14:45	Welcome
15:00	How to study interpersonal violence in sport Prof. Emma Kavanagh & Prof. Dr. Bram Constandt This workshop presents recommendations from the International Research Network on Violence and Integrity in Sport (IRNOVIS) for studying interpersonal violence (IV) toward sport participants. Attendees will explore the complexities of defining IV and learn trauma- and violence-informed research guidelines, including design and ethical considerations, to support evidence-based research in this field. Suitable for both new and experienced researchers, as well as people interested in safe sport research.
16:00	Coffee break - 15 MIN
16:15	Science Slam Part I - ENG Researchers will present their research ideas and findings in a clear, concise, creative and engaging way to an audience of fellow academics and safe sport research fans. A senior researcher within this field will moderate the session.
17:15	Coffee break - 15 MIN
17:30	Science Slam Part II - ENG Researchers will present their research ideas and findings in a clear, concise, creative and engaging way to an audience of fellow academics and safe sport research fans. A senior researcher within this field will moderate the session.
18:30	Optional: Researchers Meet & Greet

28th November 2024

Program Safe Sport Conference

9:00	Welcome and coffee/tea			
9:15	Opening - Marijn de Vries ENG/NL			
9:30	Plenary keynote - ENG/NL Current research about harrasment and abuse in sport with focus on online violence - Prof. Emma Kavanagh			
10:00	Panel debate - ENG/NL Safe Sport Climate Moderator: Marijn de Vries Panelists: Joanna Maranhão, Philippe Paquay, Philippe Rosier, Dr. Tine Vertommen & Evy Van Coppenolle			
10:45	Plenary keynote - ENG/NL Safe Sport Lab Launch - Profs. Tine Vertommen & Leen Haerens			
11:15	Coffee break - 15 MIN			
11:30	Workshops <ul style="list-style-type: none">The role of the safeguarding officer in cases involving eating disorders (NL) - Eva BervoetsPsychologisch harassment and abuse: recognize and respond (NL) - Dr. Felien Laureys & Brecht Van der BekeThe role of safeguarding officer during major events (ENG) - Claudia Villa-Hughes & An De Kock			
12:30	Lunch Break - 45 MIN			
13:15	Roundtables			
	<table border="1"><tr><td>Intervision Flemish safeguarding officers (NL) Practising conversation techniques - Brecht Van der Beke</td><td>Policy table (NL) Federation directors only Dr. Tine Vertommen & Evy Van Coppenolle</td><td>Safe Sport Reflections (ENG) Facilitated by the Safe Sport Lab</td></tr></table>	Intervision Flemish safeguarding officers (NL) Practising conversation techniques - Brecht Van der Beke	Policy table (NL) Federation directors only Dr. Tine Vertommen & Evy Van Coppenolle	Safe Sport Reflections (ENG) Facilitated by the Safe Sport Lab
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15:00	Coffee Break - 15 MIN			
15:15	Podium discussion - ENG/NL Ethics in safeguarding: Applying principles of trauma-informed and self-care Joanna Maranhão & Jon Brain			
16:15	Closing and inspiration wall - Marijn de Vries ENG/NL			
16:30	End of Conference			
19:30	Movie: Julie keeps Quiet (NL/ENG/FR, optional)			

Elective workshops

API's only

Federation directors only

Others

Content details

Plenary Presentation (9h30 – 10h00)

Keynote: "From the Field to the Screen: The Evolving Landscape of Harassment and Abuse in Sport" – Prof. Dr. Emma Kavanagh

In this keynote, Prof Dr Emma Kavanagh will elaborate on the latest scientific insights on interpersonal violence in sport. Drawing from her expertise, she will also focus specifically on speaking about online violence.

Panel discussion "Safe Sport Climate" (10h00 – 10h45)

Moderator

- **Marijn de Vries**

Panel members

- **Joanna Maranhao - Brazilian Olympian, survivor, advocate, and the coordinator of the Athletes Network for Safer Sports**
- **Philippe Paquay** – CEO Sport Vlaanderen (Sport Flanders)
- **Philippe Rosier** – CEO Voetbal Vlaanderen (Flemish Football Federation)
- **Evy Van Coppenolle** – Director Sportieq
- **Dr. Tine Vertommen** – Researcher Thomas More University & IOC Safe Sport Unit

Experts from policy, practice and science will discuss the best way to strengthen our approach to tackle interpersonal violence in sport. Are we all doing enough to keep the sports environment safe? Where could we do better? And what are we running into?

Plenary Presentation (10h45 – 11h15)

Safe Sport Lab Launch – Prof. Dr. Leen Haerens & Dr. Tine Vertommen

Prof Haerens and Dr Vertommen will share the latest Flemish research findings on motivational coaching and the prevention of interpersonal violence in sport. They will highlight the application of scientific knowledge and monitoring data to strengthen policy and practice. The session will also feature the official launch of the 'Safe Sport Lab Thomas More-UGent', a strategic partnership between Thomas More and Ghent University.

Workshops - of choice (11h30 – 12h30)

Workshop 1: The role of the safeguarding practitioners in cases involving eating disorders (NL)

Eva Bervoets

As a safeguarding practitioner, you may encounter questions about food, weight, and body image. This session will discuss how to approach these concerns, the experiences of athletes and sports clubs, and provide tips on supporting athletes and referring them when necessary.

Workshop 2: Psychological Violence: How to Effectively Recognise and Respond as a Safeguarding Officer (NL)

Dr. Felien Laureys & Brecht Van der Beke

Psychological violence is often subtle and subjective. This workshop will dive into the signs of such behaviour, based on recent research among trainers and athletes, and explore the safeguarding officer's role in addressing these cases.

Workshop 3: The role of the safeguarding officer during sport events (ENG)

Claudia Villa-Hughes & An De Kock

Exploring how to create safe environments for all participants, from athletes to spectators. Discover the critical role of effective safeguarding frameworks and the importance of creating a multi-agency team for protecting human rights, ensuring that every event upholds the highest safeguarding standards. In the second part of this session we will discuss how we can use existing safeguarding frameworks for event organisation in a Flemish context.

Roundtables (13h15 – 15h00)

1) API intervision (invitation only)

Practicing conversation techniques (NL)

Brecht Van der Beke

In this session, APIs will have the chance to practice conducting assessment interviews as a safeguarding officer in a supportive, safe environment. Working in small groups, the focus will be on providing hands-on experience, particularly for safeguarding officers who may have limited case-handling experience and feel unsure about initiating conversations with reporters. This workshop aims to build your confidence and refine your skills through practical exercises and peer feedback.

2) Roundtable policy

The Flanders' 2030 safe sport strategy (NL)

Dr. Tine Vertommen & Evy Van Coppenolle

Policymakers and sports administrators will discuss and shape the strategic agenda for the next decade. The focus will be on the Flemish government's priorities, the role of sports federations, and how research can drive impactful changes.

3) Safe Sport Reflections

Safe Sport Reflections (ENG) **Facilitated by the Safe Sport Lab**

In this mind mapping session, participants will interactively and creatively discuss the topic of safe sport. Small groups will be assigned with a central theme (e.g., cultural sensitivity, creating a safe environment etc.) to brainstorm on ideas, challenges, and solutions. By doing so, they will create a visual map. At the end, groups will present their maps and discuss common themes, good practices and, who knows, surprising insights.

Podium discussion (15h45 – 16h15)

Podium Discussion **Ethics in safeguarding: Applying principles of trauma-informed and self-care (ENG)** **Joanna Maranhão & Jon Brain**

Two topics will be touched upon during this podium discussion. The first topic discusses the importance of trauma-informed principles in safeguarding. The second topic elaborates on the importance of self-care and will participants in reflecting on and developing personalised self-care strategies. During the podium discussion, there is room for the audience to interact with the speakers.

Closing and inspiration wall (16h15 – 16h30)

Closing and inspiration wall (ENG/NL) **Marijn de Vries**

Marijn de Vries will close the day by bringing all thoughts, ideas, and discussions of the day together. She will conclude, and the audience will have the opportunity to leave their ideas for a better safe sport environment on the inspiration wall.

Movie (19h30)

MOVIE: Julie keeps Quiet (NL/ENG/FR, optional)

Julie is a star player at an elite tennis academy. When her coach falls under investigation and is suddenly suspended, all of the club's players are encouraged to speak up. But Julie decides to keep quiet.

Meet the speakers



Marijn de Vries is a Dutch journalist, columnist for NRC, cycling analyst at Sporza, and former professional cyclist. She is an advocate for a safe sports climate.



Prof. Dr. Emma Kavanagh is Professor of Sport Psychology at Bournemouth University (UK). She conducts research into (online) violence in sports and guides athletes in their preparation for major international competitions.



Philippe Paquay is CEO of Sport Vlaanderen, the Flemish Ministry of Sport.



Evy Van Coppenolle is a director at Sportieq, the Flemish expertise center in healthy and safe sports.



Dr. Tine Vertommen is a criminologist and coordinates the research line 'Safeguarding sport and society' at the Thomas More University of Applied Sciences. She is an expert consultant for the IOC's Safe Sport Unit and leads the International Research Network on Violence and Integrity in Sport (IRNOVIS).



Joanna Maranhão is a Brazilian four-time Olympian and network coordinator at the Sport & Rights Alliance. She fights for human rights in sport.



Philippe Rosier is the CEO of Voetbal Vlaanderen.



Prof. Dr. Leen Haerens is a professor at Ghent University and, together with her colleague Prof. Katrien De Cocker, leads the MOVES (MotiVation in Education and Sports) research group within the Department of Movement and Sport Sciences at Ghent University.



Eva Bervoets is a clinical psychologist and scientific collaborator at Eetexpert, where she works on the prevention of eating and weight problems.



Dr. Felien Laureys is a researcher and coach with expertise on sports training and talent development in youth athletes at Ghent University.



Brecht Van der Beke is a policy officer for integrity at Sportieq, a sports psychologist and works as a forensic psychologist at the Centre for Mental Health Care.



An De Kock is an integrity policy officer at Sportieq, specialising in interpersonal violence, bullying, racism and case support.



Claudia Villa-Hughes is a safeguarding specialist at the Center for Sport and Human Rights and a member of the Council of Europe's International Pool of Experts in Safe Sport.



Jon Brain is a Professional Doctorate candidate in Sport and Exercise Psychology at the University of Portsmouth (UK), sport psychologist and safe sport researcher at Thomas More University of Applied Sciences.



Helena Verhelle is a criminologist and safe sport researcher in the research line 'Safeguarding sport and society' at the Thomas More University of Applied Sciences. She is also coordinator of the postgraduate Forensic Psychodiagnostics and Counselling.



Dr. Karolien Adriaens is a clinical psychologist and a safe sport researcher in the research line 'Safeguarding sport and society' at the Thomas More University of Applied Sciences.

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